

THE NATIONAL
Wool Grower

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

OCT 9 1944

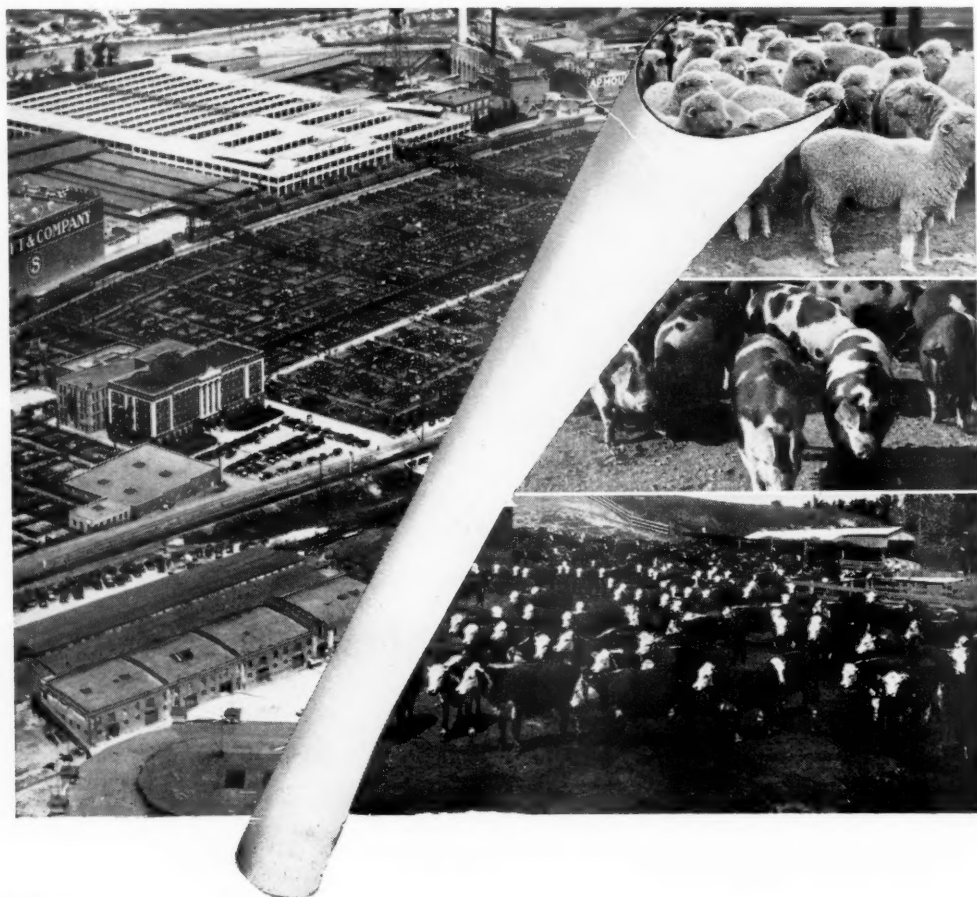
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Volume XXXIV
OCTOBER, 1944
Number 10



New "Plastic Furs"
—A Lamb Luxury
(See Article)

It's "GOODBYE GUESSWORK"



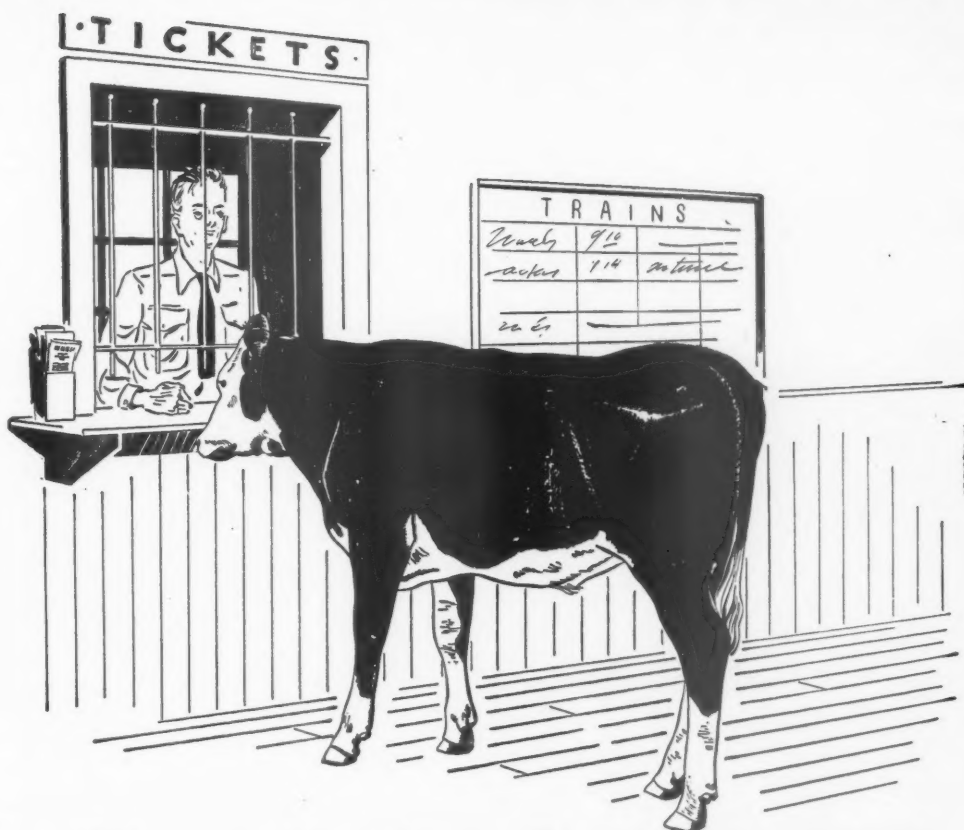
When you

SHIP 'EM TO DENVER

No other selling method can offer Livestock producers the advantages found at a **CENTRAL MARKET**—Neither can the concentrated buying power and competitive national outlet resulting from **DENVER'S DOMINANT LOCATION** be excelled in the Rocky Mountain West.

DENVER UNION STOCK YARD COMPANY

OVER 60 YEARS OF DOING ONE THING WELL



"Sorry, No Stop-Over This Trip"

Ordinarily range cattle stop over at feed-lots on their way to market. There they are finished on full feed to make the fat-marbled steaks and roasts that Americans love to eat.

But this fall, as you know, range-fed cattle are reaching market in tremendous numbers right off the pastures and meadows of ranches and farms. The beef from these cattle will, of course, be leaner than much of the beef we are accustomed to eating.

Educating consumers to know the advantages of this leaner beef is a problem of the livestock and meat industry. We, at Swift & Company, realized this situation would develop and months ago went to work on it. We are doing everything we can think of to promote the consumption of "Utility Grade" beef, as it is classed by Government inspectors.

Here's what we are doing to help merchandise your range-fed beef:

- 1. RADIO**—On 199 Blue-network stations, we are using The Breakfast Club hour once a week for six weeks to tell millions of housewives how to prepare and serve leaner cuts of meat.
- 2. SATURDAY EVENING POST and LIFE**—Double-page advertisements, in color, tell the same story to millions of readers.
- 3. HOME ECONOMISTS' MAGAZINES**—More double-

page, color advertisements explain the problem to an important group of women leaders.

- 4. FOOD TRADE PUBLICATIONS**—Advertisements in 14 of these papers tell meat dealers how to promote the sale and consumption of range-fed beef.
- 5. SWIFT DEALERS**—Our dealers have received a special bulletin which brings them effective store-tested selling suggestions. We have also supplied them with extensive store display material.
- 6. SPECIAL PROMOTIONS**—Recipes and information have been distributed to women's editors of magazines and newspapers, to home economists and to housewives.

We have been working on this problem constantly since last June. We will continue to merchandise range-fed beef with all the "know-how" at our command until the beef marketing situation returns to normal.

SWIFT & COMPANY
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

HOUGHTON WOOL COMPANY
TOP MAKERS
 253 Summer Street Boston, Mass.

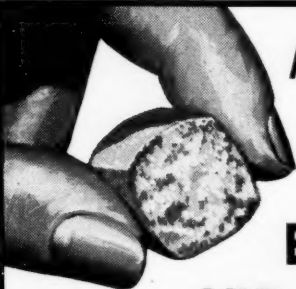
R. H. LINDSAY COMPANY
Wool Merchants
 273 Summer St. Boston, Mass.



**"MY BOSS IS A
 NEW MAN SINCE HE
 SWITCHED TO FINER-FLAVORED
 MORNING MILK!"**

★ Tastes Better
 ★ Keeps Fresh Longer
 — Say Sheepmen

MORNING MILK



**Amazing Vitamin Benefits
 in FUL-O-PEP CUBES
 Help Build
 BIG LAMB CROP
 AND HEAVY WOOL CLIP**

NOW'S THE TIME to begin building up ewes for a big lamb crop, so they'll drop strong, healthy lambs without trouble and have plenty of milk to nurse generously.

BUT WINTER GRAZING and ordinary range feeds often fail to supply many of the essential vitamins needed to build up ewes for the job. That's why Ful-O-Pep Range Breeder Cubes are fortified with nature's richest vitamin combination—a Vitamin Boost derived from fresh, tender cereal grasses—along with other vitamin rich sources.

FUL-O-PEP RANGE BREEDER CUBES are excellently adapted for range feeding. This feed offers an appetizing variety of carbohydrate sources to help promote body heat and energy and thus help build heavy, dense fleeces. And essential vitamins, minerals and proteins contribute to bone, muscle, blood and reproduction strength. Order your supply today. For more details send your name and address to

THE QUAKER OATS COMPANY, DEPT. K-76, CHICAGO 4, ILL.



THE COVER

American Wool Council Photograph

Left: It's one of the new Calva process, plastically treated sheepskin furs, a lovely new shade of gray never seen on any beaver, called "silver-smoke beaver." The advantage of the laboratory over nature is that it can achieve colors that no animal ever boasted of.

Right: Sheepskin as it looks when it gets the Calva plastic treatment and looks like rich, brown beaver.

Both coats are now being sold in leading department stores for about \$150.

The Cutting Chute

Feed Situation Eases

W.F.A. reports increased market offerings of feeds. By-product feeds hold at ceiling prices, but ground grain feeds decline. Hay supplies and pastures are above average (though below 1943). Prospects for supplies of wheat feeds, oilseed cakes and meals and corn feeds are good.

Support Price on Hogs Sustained

The War Food Administration, in an order which became effective October 1, stated that all Class 1 and Class 2 slaughterers shall pay a support price of not less than \$12.50 on choice butcher hogs on weights between 200 and 240 pounds. A discount for oily pork not to exceed \$1.50 per hundred weight is allowed.

Farm Lumber Restrictions Eased

W.P.B. announces that farmers may now receive, without certification, up to 5,000 board feet of lumber annually from sawmills, provided it is produced from trees cut from their own farms. Previously none could be secured except from mills cutting less than 100,000 board feet annually.

Some Lumber Released

Of the 8,819,000,000 board feet of lumber that has been authorized for distribution for the fourth quarter of 1944, the W.F.A. has been assigned 401,000,000 feet for re-allocation to farmers through county A.A.A. committees. They had requested 422,000,000 feet.

Limit Quantity Sales of Textile Bags

No textile bags of any type may be sold or delivered in quantities of 1,000 or more unless the buyer certifies on his purchase order or contract that he will use the bags only for purposes permitted by Textile Bag Order M-221. New burlap bags may be used to pack *agricultural products*, crushed oyster shells, fertilizer, *meat*, *mohair*, petroleum waxes, stearic acid, edible or inedible tankage, *wool*, *wool products* and chemicals for export.

The National Wool Grower

Morgan Named Assistant Chief of Livestock-Meats Branch

Murray T. Morgan has been named Assistant Chief of the Livestock and Meats Branch in the War Food Administration's Office of Distribution.

Since October 1942 he has been chief of the Meat Purchase Division of the Branch, and was in charge of the War Food Administration's meat buying programs. He began his work in the Department of Agriculture in 1933 when he accepted a position as chief of the Meat Processing Division of the A.A.A. Later he supervised the transportation of Government cattle and sheep slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the 1934 drouth program, and assisted in the disposal of meat products acquired by the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

Meat Consumption

According to figures released by the War Food Administration, 476,670,000 pounds of lamb were consumed in the first seven months of 1944 as compared to 428,725,000 pounds in a like period last year, or an increase of 11 per cent over a year ago. This would figure out for the first seven months about 3.45 pounds of lamb and mutton for each person in the United States. This is an increase of 9 per cent over the same period in 1943, and an increase of 8 per cent over the five-year average.

Lend-Lease Meat

Since the first Lend-lease shipments of meat left our ports in March of 1941 up until June 1 this year, a total of 4 billion 867 million pounds have gone abroad. About 91 per cent of this meat was pork. Beef and veal shipments during the same period were 251 million 200 thousand pounds, and shipments of lamb and mutton were 176 million 200 thousand pounds.

For the entire period up to June 1, the exports of all meats represented 9.5 per cent of the total supply, including 1.1 per cent of the beef and veal supply, 12.6 per cent of the lamb and mutton supply, and 15.6 per cent of the pork supply.

Packer Operations

The financial results of 1943 operations of 838 packers subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, after deducting taxes and depreciation, show an average net worth of \$925,675,461; net sales of \$6,699,438,853; and a net gain of \$87,987,449.

The packing concerns under consideration had a net profit in 1939 of 6.2 per cent; in 1940, 7.3 per cent; in 1941, 9.9 per cent, and in 1942, 9.5 per cent based on net worth.

Increase in Livestock Loading

Livestock loading for the week ended September 9 amounted to 17,953 cars, an increase of 1,113 cars above the preceding week, and an increase of 1,452 cars above the corresponding week in 1943. In the Western Districts alone loading of livestock for the week of September 9 totaled 13,909 cars, an increase of 1,202 cars above the preceding week, and an increase of 1,458 cars above the corresponding week in 1943.

Wynn S. Hansen

REGISTERED RAMBOUILLET

LINCOLN-RAMBOUILLET CROSSBRED

RAMS

For Immediate or Summer Delivery

COLLINSTON, UTAH

Kansas City LIVESTOCK MARKET

HAS

FACILITIES AND ORGANIZATION

THAT WILL BOOST
THE NET PROCEEDS

FOR THE SALE OF YOUR SHEEP

Kansas City Stock Yards Co.

America's Leading Brand of Animal Biologics and Supplies

Use FRANKLIN PRODUCTS

to **Boost Your
Production**

By Reducing Disease and Parasite Losses

Franklin Ovine Ecthyma
for Soremouth

Franklin Ovine Mixed Bacterin
for Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Franklin Blood Stopper

Franklin Bluestone Drench
Powder for Stomach and
Tape Worms

Franklin Sheep Marking Paint

Franco Castrator
Ear Punches, Syringes.

Franklin Products are sold by Drug Store Agencies

O. M. FRANKLIN SERUM COMPANY

DENVER KANSAS CITY EL PASO MARFA AMARILLO FT. WORTH
WICHITA ALLIANCE SALT LAKE CITY LOS ANGELES

* VACCINES ARE VITAL TO THE MEAT SUPPLY OF AMERICA



write for
FREE
Catalog

A postal
will bring it.



October, 1944

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Affiliated Organizations

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A. E. Lawson, Secretary

Western South Dakota Sheep Growers

Association

Rapid City

John Widdoss, President

H. J. Devereaux, Secretary

Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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J. B. Wilson, Secretary

What Private Ownership Means

From 1916 to 1918 the railroads, pressed to their utmost under centralized federal operation, were able to increase ton-mile performance only 12 per cent. From 1941 to 1943, under the system of voluntary collaboration now in effect, the railroad ton-miles were increased 53 per cent. Furthermore, the rise in passenger traffic was only 23 per cent from 1916 to 1918, whereas it was up 200 per cent from 1941 to 1943, and is still going up.

It will be seen from this that the railroads operated under private enterprise are far more efficient than when operated by the government, and the same would apply to other lines of industry. One often thinks what a calamity it would be if the government undertook to operate the packing industry as they did the railroads in 1916 to 1918.

John Clay & Co.

Labeling Act Violated Is Complaint

Complaint has been charged by the Federal Trade Commission against the Agawam Woolen Company of Agawam, Massachusetts, for failure to "affix to certain products a stamp, tag, label, or other means of identification, as provided by the Wool Products Labeling Act, showing the percentages of the wool, reprocessed or reused wool, and of each fiber other than wool where such fiber by weight is five per cent or more of the total weight, and the aggregate of all other fibers.

Transportation of Livestock Under Conservation Program

More than 47,142,000 truck miles are being saved annually in transportation of livestock to market under the conservation program established by the Office of Defense Transportation in August, 1943, Colonel J. Monroe Johnson, O.D.T. Director, said on September 27. And further: "This program is being carried on through 130 livestock industry transportation advisory committees organized on an O.D.T. district basis. Co-operating with these committees are 2,020 subcommittees selected on a county basis. They are all to be highly commended for the splendid results attained in conservation of transportation."

Committees are working closely with the O.D.T. preparing plans designed to insure prompt transportation of the anticipated heavy run of livestock this fall and winter. Truck operators are being assisted in getting their equipment into the best possible condition.

A limited number of the few new commercial motor vehicles being manufactured for civilian use are being allocated to essential haulers in locations where there is a deficit of transportation facilities.

Surplus Machine Tools

D.P.C. is now offering surplus machine tools for immediate sale, which are held in government-owned plants. Listings can be secured from Defense Plant Corporation, Surplus War Property Division, 811 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

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NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1944

509 Pacific National Life Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

J. M. Jones Editors
Irene Young

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign \$2.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

The National Wool Grower

Industry Comments

LAMB DEVELOPMENTS

THE lamb market has shown strength during the latter part of September compared to the market immediately following Labor Day and most people close to the market see no reason for the market to weaken during this marketing period of milk-fat lambs.

With the exception of the Chicago market, average prices being paid at this time are slightly under prices of a year ago on lambs and considerably lower in the case of sheep.

Definite improvement has taken place in the mutton market and the live ewe market during the past two weeks although prices are at least \$2 below a year ago. Here again lend-lease purchases have come to our assistance. It is understood they are making these purchases at full ceilings, but will not buy any culls and specific weights are required. All dressed lamb is reported to be selling at ceiling prices, even the lower grades. Mutton is selling at satisfactory prices with the exception of culls.

The processing industry reports that the one difficulty at the present time is the killing situation. The labor situation is tight which in many instances delays slaughter of animals on the market.

There is no doubt that the low prices for sheep has occasioned light receipts for slaughter as compared to a year ago, but the slaughter of ewes is still above normal and if prices advance ewe slaughter will increase.

The slaughter of lambs and yearlings for August, the latest figures available, show a 3 per cent increase over July and 8.5 per cent over a year ago. Slaughter for the first 8 months is 4.5 per cent greater than for the same period a year ago.

The greatest change in slaughter figures is reflected in the ewe slaughter. For August there was a decrease of 7 per cent compared with July and a decrease of 63 per cent when compared with the first 8 months of a year ago.

In 1943 sheep slaughter constituted

15.9 per cent of total federal inspected slaughter for the first eight months as compared with 12.3 per cent for this year. However, in normal years only about 6 to 8 per cent of this slaughter consists of ewes.

Total federal inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs for the first 8 months of 1944 was 13,689,000 head as compared with 13,648,000 in 1943.

Rationing

The industry is indebted to Senators Millikin and Johnson of Colorado, Robertson and O'Mahoney of Wyoming, and Congressman Barrett for the assistance and support given in our attempt to get rationing off of lamb. The prospect for getting this accomplished is remote.

There is no doubt that the sheep industry is being discriminated against in this regard; first, because the producer is forced to pay the cost of distribution because of controlled demand; second, fish, veal and poultry continue unrationed and replace lamb on the menu in homes and eating establishments; third, lamb represents only 4.5 per cent of the meat now being consumed, to go unrationed would not injure the war effort, but still the demand is controlled, all at a time when, in the opinion of the producer, live prices do not reflect ceiling values.

Meat Grading

Prior to dollar and cent ceilings on lamb carcasses, your association went on record favoring meat grading by government standards and from the standpoint of producers and consumers it would seem desirable under normal conditions, but with a spread of \$1.50 to \$2 between grades under the ceilings, the producer pays a heavy penalty, particularly if graders are severe, and at best grading is a matter of judgment based upon the interpretation of the specifications by the individual grader.

The processor naturally buys the live animal with a margin of protection on the grading. It will be recalled at the

beginning of the war, efforts of your association were directed toward getting acceptance by the Army of heavier lamb carcasses. The condition now is such that of the fat lambs, the heavier lambs bring the highest price, which has not always been true.

An interesting example of what is happening occurred the other day to a producer of milk-fat lambs. The milk-fat lambs were being sorted by a buyer, based upon his experience in the trade, and all the animals that, in his opinion, would not be graded as good (A) or choice (AA) were cut back.

As an experiment this prominent producer decided to slaughter these "cut-back" lambs for his own use. The lambs averaged 76 pounds direct from the pasture without shrink (the others were sold with a 4 per cent shrink). Based on the original weight after the carcasses had hung in the cooler 5 days, these carcasses were weighed and the yield was 51.3 per cent, pluck in, were well covered with fat, and should grade choice and no one could have graded them lower than good. Yet these lambs were cut out of the herd as not carrying sufficient fat to yield what the buyer desired.

Wool Freight Rate Case

Chas E. Blaine reports that he has been in conference with the Counsel of the Transportation and Services Division of the War Food Administration, relative to petitioning Interstate Commerce Commission for reopening Docket 28863, General Wool Freight Rate Investigation, and that the interested parties have made recommendations preliminary to the submitting of the petition. It is felt that as soon as all principals are heard from that the petition will be filed.

The fact that inasmuch as the Interstate Commerce Commission has reopened Ex Parte 148, Increased Rates, Fares, and Charges, and because this proceeding is of special interest to our industry and considerable preparation is necessary on the part of our counsel, there will be some delay in the opening

of the wool freight rate case if our petition is granted by the I.C.C. It was first felt that it might be possible to ask for hearing to begin in January but it will probably be February or later even though the reopening is approved.

J.M.J.

Lamb Rationing

THE efforts of woolgrowers to secure removal of lamb from rationing has been met by strong opposition from the Office of Price Administration, and a passive attitude on the part of processors and retail outlets.

The fact that butter was raised 4 points per pound just intensifies the situation with no increase in consumer points. It is hoped that eventually O.P.O. will see fit to remove butter from meat point rationing.

President Winder has just returned from the Washington meeting of consultants to the Meat Rationing Division of the Office of Price Administration, and although the O.P.A. has asked that the report of the meeting not be published, it may be said that the outlook for removal of points on lamb is not encouraging.

It might be of interest to review some of the correspondence on this subject. The first of the following letters is one to Chester Bowles, Administrator of the Office of Price Administration, and the second, his reply to the first letter:

September 7, 1944

Chester Bowles, Administrator
Office of Price Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bowles

It is with a great deal of apprehension the producers of lamb in the Western United States viewed the recent release on the continued rationing of lamb for the month of September without any increase in the number of points to individuals for the purchase of these rationed meats, butter, margarine, cheese, and evaporated milk. In addition a reduction of 50 per cent on the allotments of rationed currency to institutional users effective September 1st will be continued through October. All of the conditions obtain during the period of greatest slaughter of lambs.

The peak of greatest receipts of live lambs for slaughter occurs in these two months and it is anticipated that it will strain marketing and processing facilities to handle them this year. In our opinion, rationing at the present time on lamb is unnecessary, not only because of the anticipation of increased slaughter, but because lamb and mutton consumed in the United States in 1943 represents only 4.8 per cent of the meat used. Therefore, it cannot be said that

to remove it from rationing would hinder the war effort. Should our Armed Forces need more lamb, it would not be difficult to issue a set-aside order as is now being done with many other commodities. Veal and poultry are not rationed and both are consumed in greater quantities than is lamb.

The sheep industry is not only under stationary price ceilings and an extremely rigid grading system, but is burdened with ration control, which in our opinion is used to pay the cost of distribution. In accordance with the Stabilization Act of 1942, approved June 30, 1944, which is an amendment to the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, Section 102 (H) provides that "the powers created in this section shall not be used or made to operate to compel changes

in business practices . . . or aids to distribution except where such action is affirmatively found by the administrator to be necessary to prevent circumvention or evasion of any regulation of the price schedule or requirements under this act."

It is our contention that the present lamb market situation does not, and has not, circumvented or evaded any of the regulations and, therefore, should not be applied as an aid to the distribution of lamb because of a price zoning system which is not set up on a workable basis.

A study of the market, particularly on the West Coast, is in our opinion proof of the point at issue. The processors receive 28 cents per pound for choice lamb carcasses, which includes 2 cents per pound consumer subsidy. This is the basis from which the live price for choice grades of lamb is supposed to be figured.

Since rationing went on the three higher grades of lamb on July 1, 1944, the prices quoted for choice grades in San Francisco and Portland have taken a material drop and have not recovered. Choice grades of lamb were reported at Portland to be \$13.50 a cwt. the first of July, and dropped to a low of \$12 and were quoted at \$12.25 on August 31. Price quotations on the San Francisco market for the same period were \$14.50 and dropped to a low of \$13.45 as of August 22.

Innumerable testimonials are on record in the West Coast Area that state, "since rationing is again placed on lamb, sales volume have dropped 50 per cent or more." Reports show that wholesale prices have been held at the ceiling, but live prices have been greatly reduced. This may mean that the lambs are purchased at distressed prices and fed for a short time before slaughter, or bought and shipped to another locality; or that when the producer finds the market has broken, in order to protect himself, he diverts his shipment to other areas, but very seldom does he divert this loss. It is again our contention, therefore, that the producer is paying the cost of distribution, which condition has been brought about by ration control.

Almost every report coming out of Washington speaks of the great surpluses of food on hand and much concern is expressed by the War Food Administration. This, however, does not bear out the actions of the Office of Price Administration by their recent releases. We would appreciate a statement from you as to what your feeling is in this regard.

A heavy movement of lambs is now in progress. The market on September 5th showed that lambs were 25 cents lower, and late bids were 50 cents or more lower. This is a situation which producers cannot understand when the demand for their product is controlled by rationing and when prices are not being paid that are commensurate with wholesale ceilings. All this is occurring at a time when the industry is not meeting its costs of production because of the lack of price control on expenses involved in the industry.

Increased price ceilings, of course, are another thing which we consider needs attention by your office, but the removal of rationing on lamb in the meantime would be an essential benefit to the producer. The consumer is also dissatisfied with the present rationing on lamb.

A copy of this letter is going to Judge Marvin Jones for his information. May we get your reaction to our problem?

Very truly yours,
J. M. Jones, Secretary

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

October 26: Registered Columbia Sale, Minot, North Dakota.

November 1-2: Wyoming Wool Growers' Convention, Casper, Wyoming.

November 4-8: Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.

November 16-17: California Wool Growers Convention, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, California.

December 2-7: Chicago Market Fat Stock and Carlot Competition.

December 2-8: Great Western Livestock Show, Los Angeles, California.

December 4-5: Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Convention, San Angelo, Texas.

January 13-21, 1945: National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

January 15-16, 1945: Washington Wool Growers Assn. Convention, Yakima, Washington.

January 18-19, 1945: Oregon Wool Growers Assn. Convention, Prineville, Oregon.

January 29-30-31, 1945: 80th Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association, Ft. Worth, Texas.

MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY

It has been requested by the Chamber of Commerce of Ft. Worth that hotel reservations be made as early as possible for the 80th National Wool Growers Convention, January 29, 30, and 31, 1945. The Texas Hotel will be the headquarters for the convention. One hundred and fifty rooms have been secured at the Texas, 50 at the Worth, 50 at the Blackstone, and 50 at the Westbrook. **MAKE YOUR CHOICE EARLY!**

September 18, 1944

Mr. J. M. Jones, Secretary
National Wool Growers Association
509 Pacific National Life Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah.

In reply refer to 70451:PBJ

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of September 7, 1944, regarding lamb rationing.

As you know, present lamb supplies, the current requirements of the Armed Forces, and distribution to consumers have been and are being considered by the War Food Administration, the War Meat Board and by this office. It is necessary to consider the interests of growers, feeders, packers, dealers and consumers in order to get a clear-cut picture of the conditions as they exist, and to see the national picture in appropriate perspective.

This problem is not unlike others that have been called to our attention. It involves, as we see it, a section of the country that plays a very important part in our total lamb supply and which is now experiencing the usual heavier seasonal market-ing.

It is almost inevitable that some persons should feel, at times, that the rationing of certain items is unnecessary. For example, many persons in the gasoline producing areas do not feel that gasoline rationing is necessary; persons in cheese-producing areas, in shoe manufacturing areas, and in beef-producing areas find it difficult to understand that the products which are produced in their particular areas in such abundance need be rationed. The reason for this is obvious. The product is in plentiful supply in their areas because it is produced there. However, when these same people look upon their products as a part of the supply for the entire nation, they can readily see that producing areas must share their production with other areas if all consumers are to share fairly. This distribution has been done in the past and must continue.

Without rationing, unrestricted demand for lamb, and the present high level of purchasing power would result in some consumers getting much more than their fair share. Often this would be at the expense of consumers in non-producing and non-slaughtering areas who would be unable to get their share, simply because they do not happen to live near the sources of supply. Even though lamb comprises only a small part of our total meat supply, lamb rationing is necessary so that persons who desire it, may get their proportionate share.

Your letter suggests the possibility of set-aside orders on lamb to protect the requirements of the armed forces. Such a device would assure needed quantities for the services but would in no way facilitate an improved distribution of the remaining lamb to consumers. The latter problem, of course, is the one with which rationing is primarily concerned. Incidentally, to the extent that a set-aside order would take away some lamb now going to commercial channels, problems of consumer distribution would be even more severe.

It is true, no doubt, that since rationing on lamb was reinstated some producers have found it necessary to find other markets for their lambs when the nearest market "breaks." Is this an uncommon occurrence? Normally, when receipts of lamb are light in a certain part of the country, prices rise, and the producer will ship to that part of

the country, rather than sell for a lower price at another place.

You mentioned Washington reports on food surpluses and the concern that the War Food Administration has expressed over them. These surpluses do not apply to lamb. One must not overlook the fact that our responsibility is to ration meat which has been allocated to us by the War Food Administration for civilian consumption and that present supplies of dressed lamb fail to satisfy the ration demand for that kind of meat.

When lamb was reinstated to a point value, no compensating increase in consumer point purchasing power took place because the decrease in beef supplies in July was just compensated for the amount of lamb to which point values were restored. Lamb was assigned point values because its distribution was not satisfactory. The same was true of pork loins and hams. Utility beef was reduced to a zero point value because the supply of this grade of beef was such that rationing was not necessary to secure distribution.

The total point value of the lamb and pork cuts on which rationing was reinstated, as well as other point value changes, were practically equivalent to the total point value of the utility beef cuts reduced to a zero point value. Thus, with the same number of points, the consumer is able to purchase the same quantity of rationed meat. Therefore, the necessary balance between total ration points outstanding on one hand and the total point value of rationed items on the other was maintained.

Consumer dissatisfaction regarding lamb in many areas is probably due to the shortage of rationed lamb cuts. As you know, we get weekly meat supply reports as well as other data on national supply and distribution, from each of our 93 district offices. For the week ended September 9, 1944, 59% of those district offices report supplies of rationed lamb as short or scarce with only three district offices reporting somewhat heavy oversupply. This means that while consumers are getting some lamb, in most areas they apparently are not able to secure as much as their ration points would permit them to buy.

Our reports show that consumers in lamb-producing areas, are able to get a sufficient amount of lamb. But in general, as the distances from the producing areas increase, the more pronounced the shortages become.

Expressions of opinion received by us from various consumers throughout the country indicated that the removal of most meat from rationing on May 4, 1944, gave rise to a substantial amount of dissatisfaction with the maldistribution and local meat shortages which resulted. Consumers attributed the shortages that followed to point removal. A majority prefer rationing, which will give them a fair share of available supplies, to the haphazard distribution that may follow the removal of points on meat.

In consideration of all these facts, we concur with the War Food Administration that lamb rationing is currently desirable in the national interest.

Please be assured that your problem has been, and is being given our constant attention. When altered conditions indicate changes in rationing, you may be sure that appropriate action can and will be taken. I appreciate your interest in writing, and also the opportunity you give to me to write to you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
Chester Bowles,
Administrator



C. O. "Kelly" Hansen, Secretary
Montana Wool Growers Association

"Kelly" Hansen took over the reins as secretary of the Montana Wool Growers Association on September 1. He succeeded G. Curtis Hughes who resigned to take over a job with "Uncle Sam's" Navy as a Lieutenant (j.g.). It is regretted that the wool growers lost "Curt" Hughes, but it is fortunate that a man with the experience and background of "Kelly" Hansen was available. "Kelly" is a rancher in Meagher County, a graduate of Montana State College, was a county extension agent for 5 years, and is a native of Montana.

With such qualifications as "Kelly's" it is anticipated that the Montana Wool Growers Association will continue its forward progress.

P. D. Hanson

P. D. Hanson, who has been in California, has been named Regional Forester of the northern region with headquarters at Missoula, Montana. Mr. Hanson will be responsible for all United States Forest Service activities except forest and range research in Montana, Northwestern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Northwestern South Dakota. He comes to this region after 18 years of continuous employment with the Forest Service in California. Mr. Hanson succeeds Regional Forester Evan W. Kelley, who is retiring after nearly 40 years with the Forest Service.

Don't Waste the Game Crop!

By James and Alice Wilson

WHAT would you think of a cattle rancher who harvested only half his annual beef crop year after year and kept the rest to increase until his herd destroyed the range and starved to death?

America is doing just that with much of its wild game. And lest you think the game crop is a mere drop in the bucket of our wartime meat shortage, consider that in 1942 American hunters harvested more than a quarter of a billion pounds (full dressed) of wild meat, most of it produced on forage which domestic animals don't eat, and harvested in people's spare time as a by-product of their recreation. Hunters harvested almost a fifth as much food, by weight, as all the commercial fisheries of the United States and Alaska!

That harvest could have been increased, in many areas, from fifty to five hundred per cent with actual benefit to game herds and flocks, and this would have added at least one hundred million pounds to the nation's dwindling meat supply.

Spectacular game surpluses—that is, unharvested crops of wild animals and birds—exist in almost every section of the United States. The species whose over-crowding has become a problem in spots include deer, elk, antelope, reindeer, ducks, pheasants, and rabbits. They innocently interfere with wartime food production in the most unlikely places. Virginia last year declared an open season on elk, which were damaging hay and forage. As for the Western and Lake States, they contain hundreds of problem areas where deer or elk exhaust their winter food supply, encroach on crops and livestock range, and finally die of starvation by thousands.

This state of things—combining as it does an appalling waste of food, destruction of a basic natural resource, and cruelty to animals—is intolerable and must be ended.

You may wonder where all the game has come from, for only yesterday

everyone was saying: "Hunt with a camera instead of a gun." Most people still think all species of game are dying out. But they are about ten years behind the facts.

During the last century, when American hunters were not restricted by game laws, they harvested not only the annual game crop but most of the breeding stock as well. Suddenly sportsmen realized that the game was almost gone. The passenger pigeon and heath hen had already just about disappeared for good. The bison in its wild state was gone. Of the bighorn sheep and mountain goat, only a few head remained. The antelope, which once had roamed the plains in seemingly inexhaustible herds, was practically extinct. In a few years even deer and elk would be gone.

And so the conservationists appeared—in the nick of time. The public was converted. Legislators passed game laws. We established refuges, killed off such predators as coyotes, mountain lions, and wolves, and restocked areas where game had been killed out. We spent millions of dollars to restore northern breeding grounds for ducks. Newspapers, magazines, clubs, schools, Boy Scouts, Izaak Waltonites all preached the gospel of conservation: "No true sportsman ever kills a female."

Not only was the campaign successful; in recent years it has been so extra-successful that the chief topic of discussion among game administrators at the North American Wildlife Conference of 1943 was: "How on earth are we going to harvest all this game?" The big-game population of the United States has doubled about every ten years since 1908, increasing from an estimated 500,000 head to 6½ million head in 1943. (Of these, about 6 million are deer.) Pheasants, introduced from China in 1881, last year supplied a harvest of 15 million birds. The duck population of North America, which hit an all-time low of 27 million in 1934-35, has bounced back up to 120 million, and is climbing at the rate of ten to twenty per cent a year.

Game is like domestic stock in one respect. There is an annual crop, and if it isn't harvested, herds and flocks eventually outstrip their food supply. Drastic protection of all game everywhere was necessary to restore the depleted breeding stock. It isn't necessary any longer. Harvesting of crops is now just as important as protection of breeding stock in maintaining a balance between the game population and its food supply, despite the fact that a nation with a fifty-year-old tradition of indiscriminate protection cannot bring itself to believe that there could possibly be too many deer in Michigan, too many elk in Jackson Hole, too many pheasants in South Dakota, or too many ducks in western Washington.

The problem has been serious enough during the past few years. Now that the war has brought a shortage of hunters, ammunition, and gasoline it has become desperate indeed. For game won't stop breeding just because there's a war. Yet the conception of wild game as producing an annual crop that needs harvest is hard for the public to accept. For instance, a few years ago the people of Colorado discovered that deer and elk in certain areas were starving by thousands on the thread-bare winter range. Unwilling to see the animals killed, they shouted: "Feed 'em hay!" The State of Colorado has spent almost \$200,000 feeding them hay and concentrates. But the deer couldn't live on such fare, for a deer digests hay about as well as you do. His natural food is browse—shrubs, bark, twigs, and leaves. Pittman-Robertson studies indicate that a deer's digestive apparatus to function properly for any length of time needs a diet of 80 to 90 per cent browse, an elk's about 50 per cent.

This spring the Colorado Game Department burned the carcasses of 2,400 dead deer near the feed grounds in the Gunnison area alone. This loss was 40 to 50 per cent of the deer that were fed. For several years, over Colorado as a whole, more deer have lost their lives during the winter than have been killed

by hunters. Obviously you can't save them by feeding them. The only way to salvage the meat that is going to waste is for hunters to harvest it. If hunters don't, starvation and predators will.

But the public cannot yet believe that this is true. Popular demand still insists that other states follow Colorado's lead and spend tens of thousands of dollars feeding deer artificially.

II

THERE is no general surplus of game—yet. But there are hundreds of specific local surpluses which will develop into a general surplus if not harvested. Colorado alone has about two dozen perennial problem areas.

Our national forests contain some of the most crowded game 'slums' in the world. For example, while the one-and-one-half-million-acre Fishlake Forest in Utah will carry 30,000 deer through the winter, the present population is 60,000. Fishlake bucks are so thin you can "slit the hide and shake out the bones." Last year's winter loss on the Fishlake was 42 animals per square mile—about 4,000 pounds of meat, dressed—on 25 per cent of the range. And this in a time of meat shortage!

In Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon the deer range had been worn down to the fabric before Oregonians would agree that the herd should be cut. Even the presence of 1,200 dead fawns on six square miles wasn't evidence enough. The Forest Service sought relief from the State Game Commission, but it in turn had to wait for public support. It waited four years. Malheur Forest is still grossly overpopulated, despite repeated efforts to whittle down the herd.

Conditions are almost as bad in the Lake States. Even in the Allegheny and Pisgah National Forests of the East, says the Forest Service, the deer population "should be cut down somewhat."

The 1942 census of all our national forests showed a total of 2,000,000 deer and 165,000 elk. Under favorable conditions a deer herd will double in two to three years, an elk herd in three to five. The annual national-forest crop is about 600,000 animals. Last year an estimated 300,000 died of malnutrition or were killed by predators; hunters took only 180,000. And still the big-game population increased by 120,000

—all destined for future harvest by hunger and predators. Dr. H. L. Shantz, Chief of Game Management of the Forest Service, says: "A reasonable estimate would suggest that at least 600,000 deer and 30,000 elk should be harvested from the national forests by hunters, besides those taken by predators and starvation, to restore the balance between animal life and range."

Conditions are even worse in certain areas outside the national forests. In the West most national-forest land is high-altitude summer range, of which there is plenty. The losses from starvation occur on low-altitude winter range—mostly private, State, and other Federal lands—of which there is a much smaller acreage available to big game. Much of this lower range is pre-empted by domestic stock. Much of it is grass—unpalatable to game animals—instead of the shrubs and brush which they prefer. More important still, dry, dormant winter forage does not renew itself until spring.

Since 1927 hunters have harvested only about one-third of the annual deer crop and about two-thirds of the elk crop. If wartime conditions make an adequate harvest impossible next fall it is thought that almost half the deer and elk in the United States will face hunger and possible starvation next winter. Before they starve they will destroy the range for years to come. After the tragic loss of seven-eighths of the Kaibab Forest deer herd from starvation in the twenties, it took fifteen years before the range could again support a normal complement of game. It will never be as good as it was because many of the best forage plants were permanently killed out.

Yet the efforts of State and Federal authorities to control game herds have met with the bitterest kind of public opposition. Although artificially fed elk in Jackson Hole die of starvation at a rate of from 600 to 1,000 annually, local people have fought every effort to reduce this herd. A Wyoming sportsman, quoted in the *Elks Magazine*, flatly accuses the Forest Service of lying, under pressure from "big livestock interests," when it reports that elk in the Bighorn National Forest have outstripped their food supply and are starving to death.

As a matter of fact, livestock interests are jealous guardians of the welfare of big game; every rancher knows that the best way to maintain a good cow range is to keep enough deer and elk to pre-

vent the browse from crowding out the grass. But a rancher who loves fifty deer may hate five hundred.

Under normal conditions there is little competition between big game and domestic stock for food. In general, stock eats grass, while game prefers browse. Stock and game can eat happily at the same table, and should. But if there are too many deer—or elk, antelope, cattle, or sheep—on a range, the dominant species cannot select its diet, and has to rob other animals of food. If browse is gone, deer will turn to grass or anything else to postpone starvation. Starving cattle will eat browse. If the whole range is worn threadbare, famished animals will fight indiscriminately for whatever food is left.

It is where such conditions prevail that big game is damaging crops and livestock range. Fourteen states report deer damage to range, orchards, truck crops, corn, small grain, stacked hay, and gardens. Seven report damage by elk, four by antelope. Imagine the feelings of the rancher near Denver Mountain Parks who counted 845 elk on his ranch at one time, stripping the forage and tearing down haystacks! As for antelope, they were near extinction not so long ago, but recently 27,000 of them were counted in a Wyoming county which had been thought to have only 5,000.

Even ducks can make a farmer swear. In 1941 a quarter of a million mallards wintering on the Jumbo Reservoir in northeastern Colorado took about 50,000 bushels of corn on 15,000 acres—enough to fatten 1,200 steers. Last fall the ducks moved in again. An SOS to the Federal government by the authors of this article brought Fish and Wildlife Service agents to scatter the flock with high-powered rifles, flares, skyrockets, searchlights, dynamite bombs, and tracer bullets. The farmers estimated that as a result \$20,000 worth of corn was saved.

Nobody claims there are too many ducks in all of North America—yet. But there are too many in spots, scattered over twelve Western and Midwestern States. As with big game, huge "cities" of ducks in underhunted areas, especially unregulated refuges, outstrip their winter food supply and settle down like a Biblical plague over forage and crops. In western Washington ducks all but took last season's cabbage crop. Many Sacramento Valley truck and rice farm-

ers say they will have to move out if damage by ducks isn't controlled.

Of all upland game, rabbits and pheasants are the hardest to control. Twenty-three states report damage to crops by rabbits; seventeen report damage by pheasants. So fast have these birds multiplied in the United States that, although 15 million were killed last year, that was not enough to stop the increase. Thousands of bushels of grain were eaten by pheasants that will probably die of natural causes. That corn would have made a lot of pork chops.

Please do not conclude from this evidence of game surpluses that *all* wildlife should be slaughtered indiscriminately to win the war. A few species, such as big-horn sheep and mountain goats, have not "come back" as yet, and still need drastic protection everywhere. Most native upland birds, especially quail and grouse, will profit from wartime's partial moratorium on hunting. Even deer are scarce in some places. But more hunters by the thousands are needed this season to harvest the surplus game in the overcrowded areas.

III

THE paradox of the situation is that, although our game authorities have plenty of power to deal with scarcities of game, many of them haven't the power (to say nothing of not having enough hunters) to control surpluses.

Authority to effect removal of excess domestic livestock from range that was being destroyed has enabled the U. S. Grazing Service to put the livestock industry, on Federal lands, on a permanent sustained-yield basis. Game authorities want to do the same thing with game. But they can't do it.

The main trouble is that the public and politicians, after choosing their game managers supposedly for expert knowledge and ability, insist on telling them what to do and how to do it. Half the Game Commissions in the United States are hamstrung by meddling legislatures, ponderously meeting once in two years to pass inexpert, tardy, blunderbuss laws in a highly technical field they know nothing about.

The inflexibility of existing laws often leaves game managers powerless to cope with emergencies. California has 400,000 deer, cherished by a doe-loving

legislature. Last year Army dimout and fire-prevention regulations cut the hunting season short. Result: a paltry 17,000 bucks were harvested—only 4.3 per cent of the herd. The harvest should have been at least five times as large. Seven and a half million pounds of meat wasted—enough to ration San Francisco for six weeks! A bigger bag limit would have saved the meat; a doe season would have checked the mounting surplus; a winter hunting season would have complied with Army orders. The Game Commission had authority to order none of these. (Since then, happily, the authority has been granted.)

This brings us to the Sanctity of the Doe. If there is one thing of which the uninformed public is sure, it is that does must never be killed. But every livestock raiser knows you can't control the breeding potential of a herd by harvesting males alone.

Game managers are at last beginning to persuade sportsmen, if not the general public, that this is true. When the New Mexico Commission, facing an acute surplus of deer in the Black Canyon area, first declared an open season on does, placards flamed from telephone poles and trees: "No sportsman ever shoots a doe!"—and no sportsman did. But now they do—educated by a persistent Game Commission.

Pennsylvania, long a bright spot in game management, has had eleven doe seasons since 1923, two for does only. Does are sanctified by the legislature in Michigan. With one-fifth less deer range than Michigan, and a herd about the same size, Pennsylvania has harvested in the past eleven years almost 300,000 more deer than Michigan, and has just as many left. That's more than 30 million pounds of meat as a bonus for good management.

Game managers don't want to slaughter does. They just want to manage game. Is it good sense to accuse them of trying to wipe it out, when most of them depend on hunting-license revenue for their salaries?

Another legal obstacle to good management is the absolute inviolate type of refuge. It is not needed any longer. But we are still establishing new refuges of this type. In 1941 the Colorado legislature created two. A Presidential proclamation has just added 221,000 acres (one-third of the area of Rhode Island) to a Wyoming elk refuge which has been added to four times and still has starving elk.

Private preserves are a still harder nut to crack. Duck-hunting rights on Barr Lake, northeast of Denver, are leased by wealthy sportsmen. Neither the state nor the Federal government can legally control these ducks without permission of the lessees. The only recourse of the farmers is to bring damage suits if the ducks ruin their crops. Damage suits against whom? Are the sportsmen liable for damage done by ducks which legally belong to the Federal government? Is the government liable, when it has no legal right to control the ducks?

Many administrators feel that individuals or clubs controlling exclusive hunting privileges in choice game resorts should be required to make use of those privileges—at least to the extent necessary to keep the game from damaging other people's property. There is a Scottish precedent for this: anyone leasing grouse-hunting rights to a moor has to harvest a stated number of birds from that moor.

IV

ALL of this adds up to one very simple thing—the need for more flexible control of game by experts competent to administer it.

Perched on a pyramid of inflexible policies a decade out of date, most Game Commissions have been left high and dry and forgotten by a public and lawmakers intent on phases of war-winning more obvious than saving meat and range. Meanwhile a thousand changes requiring quick action have taken place overnight. A third of the hunters have gone to war or are too busy to hunt. Most of the rest cannot get gas and have to hunt near home. Ammunition is scarce. Military regulations have affected game control.

Part of the chronic confusion lies with a system which makes for hopeless division of authority between six independent Federal agencies and forty-eight State commissions—besides the legislatures and the public. Each agency determines its own policy, which is often at odds with that of another. They have never got together on a consistent program of management.

But we have muddled through with these chronic ills for years. The crisis of 1943 is caused by the scarcity of hunters, ammunition, gas, and guns.

As we write this, it appears that hunt-

ers are to be allowed no ammunition beyond what is already in dealers' hands. This despite Lieutenant General Somervell's statement of April 27th that, of all war goods, there is a reserve supply of only one, and that is ammunition. If hunters cannot go into the woods next fall millions of acres of range will be "scorched earth" by spring—not only for one year, but for years to come. The only remaining means of preventing this will be for State and Federal authorities to harvest surplus game—though conservationists bitterly oppose this except as a last resort.

To meet the present emergency and cure the chronic ills the authors of this article advise: (1) release of as much ammunition to hunters as is consistent with military needs; (2) liberalization of seasons and bag limits in game-surplus areas, as far as present legislation permits; (3) repeal of statutory obstacles by legislatures that can meet; (4) a committee of game authorities, co-operating with the Food Administrator perhaps, to work out a unified wartime program for surplus game control and utilization which might be adopted by all agencies; (5) as a very last resort, harvest of surplus game by State and Federal authorities in areas where hunters cannot do the job. As a long-range measure we suggest also the eventual relinquishment of legislative authority to State Game Commissions.

Game, wisely handled, can help win the war, and better its own estate in the process. We need the meat desperately. We need the forage, grain, and gardens destroyed by surplus game animals. And we need the by-products of hunting—hides, furs, fats, and feathers. We used to import a million deer hides a year, while American hunters threw away almost half that many, under State laws forbidding the sale of any wild game product. Salvage is a new word in our national economy. These laws should be modified accordingly.

So if you have given up hunting because you thought it was unpatriotic, forget your qualms. It is about the most patriotic fun you can have. But before you go, drop your Game Commission a card and ask them where the surpluses are. Go where they send you.

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CONSERVE THE RANGE THROUGH PROPER USE

October, 1944

Help Stabilize the Wool Market and Save Freight

By L. S. McCandless

"Ted" McCandless, as he is known to his friends, suggests a plan to help eliminate the cost between the producer and consumer and provide a service which will be sorely needed in post-war times in his community. Mr. McCandless' article is printed here to give an idea for post-war planning at home with the products that are produced in the West.

—Editor's Note



CRAIG, Colorado is the largest wool-shipping point in these United States.

This bald statement is made with the calm confidence that any doubter who has the time and energy to make sufficient investigations will find it fully supported by facts.

During the past several years an average of 4,000,000 pounds of excellent wool have been shipped from Craig to the large processing plants in the east. The wool has been clipped in our shearing plants scattered over the country, bound and tramped into bags without any consideration of the mix of quality and then shipped east.

In a freight movement of this kind we become interested in the number of cars required to move this immense amount of wool; the railroads are

pushed beyond their fullest capacity to move vital war materials and any help they may be given will, of course, be gratefully received by them . . . or will it?

Statistics (please pardon them, I don't like 'em any more than you do, but they are sometimes necessary) show that the wool shipped from Northwestern Colorado and Southern Wyoming runs about 60 per cent weight in grease, sand and debris.

An average of 105 carloads of wool have been shipped each year from Craig during the past five years. The proposition is therefore plain . . . more than half of these 105 freight cars could have been released for wartime effort if a wool scouring plant and a woolen manufacturing establishment — blankets, sweaters and other woolen goods, etc.—had been established at the point of entry of the largest wool movement in these United States.

The wool industry is not in an enviable position at the present time.

The National Wool Growers Association is asking government support on wool prices and protection from the wool shipped here from foreign countries.

To me, the American way to take care of this dubious situation would be to start this "vertical diversification of farm products" as it has been called, thumb noses at established prices and create a product that will guarantee good prices for articles that are in universal need.

A wool scouring plant and woolen mill, co-operative or otherwise, built in Craig where the raw product originates, would certainly do much to stabilize the market. It could do much to help eliminate the "spread" between the producer and consumer and thus give a double service, services that will be sorely needed in post-war times.

It is possible that a movement of this kind would meet opposition from the freight managers of our railroads . . . they may think that they will need this added weight (dirt and grease) after the war is over. Surely they would be short-sighted if they take this stand. Any forward movement has always been proven to be beneficial to all con-

cerned . . . the railroads would profit throughout the years by serving a demanding, thriving community 12 months out of the year instead of a seasonal demand for service that certainly would not reach the same 12-month total in freight movement.

Wool processors in the east also are vociferous in their declarations that such an affair cannot come to pass. Don't blame them for trying to protect their bread and butter. However, we again face the "American Way" . . . if it's not economical it cannot last . . . we'll find the best plan.

In the east we are told . . . "the blends must be made before scouring . . . the water is too hard in the west." Nertz, sez us western guys; we'll soften the water . . . we'll get experts to do the sorting and anything else that the works demand . . . we're acquainted with that "American Way" our own selves.

To me, there is a distinct challenge to the pioneer woolgrower here in the west. Is he going to bow and scrape before the powers in Washington or again take the American Way and handle his product in a fashion that will create a market which will not be denied . . . he CAN do it . . . I swear!

Idaho Lamb Pool Prices

Presented here is the report of the marketing of the 1944 crop of Idaho farm lambs up to July 1. The statement was prepared by E. F. Rinehart, extension animal husbandman of the University of Idaho, from data compiled by various cooperating pools, the Department of Agriculture, and the Idaho Wool Growers Association.

Particularly interesting and significant is Mr. Rinehart's statement accompanying the report:

Quite noticeable is the decline in numbers. The percentage of ewes shipped the last few years is reducing numbers of both farm and range sheep. Reports of lambs and ewes shipped by these cooperating pools in the last five years are interesting. The following table gives the yearly data of marketing results of the pools for the entire season of the completed years, 1939 to 1943 inclusive:

Year	No. Lambs	% Fat	Av. Weight	Av. Mark t Price cwt.	% Ewes
1939	57,260	82	82	\$ 8.95	3
1940	58,434	82	81	9.39	4
1941	84,092	81	83	10.93	1
1942	82,764	68	83	13.64	1?
1943	35,236	63	86	13.88	19

THE July 1 returns have been received on 38,908 sheep and lambs. Of this number 8,320 lambs, 1,699 ewes, 210 wethers and 40 rams were farm sheep reported by cooperative pools. Other shipments were made by the Aberdeen, Payette, and Sterling pools which do not give their home data, hence are not included in this report.

A total of 13,284 ranch lambs are covered in the report. Of that number, 8,320 were from pools who cooperated in assembling the report, 1,711 from the Aberdeen pool, 272 from the Sterling pool, 120 from the Payette pool and 2,861 were assembled by independent pools or by buyers. Because of the rainy weather and the soft range feed, the shipment of range lambs, the lightest on record, was delayed largely until July. June returns were reported on 20,448 range lambs, 1,306 ewes, and 278 wethers.

The National Columbia Show

Three hundred head of registered Columbia ewes and rams have been consigned to the National Columbia Show and Sale in Minot, North Dakota, October 26th, according to E. M. Gregory, Fargo, North Dakota, sale manager.

Outstanding breeders of the nation who are making consignments are:

Wm. Denecke, Bozeman, Montana.
Ernest White, Kalispell, Montana.
R. B. Marquiss, Gillette, Wyoming.
Hanna Stock Farm, Bordulac, North Dakota.
R. E. Brown, Bozeman, Montana.
J. E. Norton, Bozeman, Montana.
Horace Genre, Barton North Dakota.
Glen M. Daly, Rollins, Montana.
Leonard P. Larson, Hannaford, North Dakota.

H. T. Porter, Bozeman, Montana.
Knut Berg, Cando, North Dakota.
N. L. Towne, Bozeman, Montana.
Abrahamson & Hilgers, Devil's Lake, North Dakota.

U. S. Archibald, Pinetree, Wyoming.
Lloyd B. Stevens, Cando, North Dakota.

Mrs. W. P. Borden, Mandan, North Dakota.

Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Bozeman, Montana.

Mrs. Helen Wagner, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Bjorn Fugelstad, Coppertown, North Dakota.

Intense interest in this relatively new breed of sheep has prompted the Dakota-Minnesota Columbia Sheep Breeders Association to sponsor this National Show and Sale. The Minot Association of Commerce, North Dakota Extension Service, Greater North Dakota Association and Railroad Agricultural Departments are assisting the sheep breeders in their program.

Columbia sheep were developed by the United States Department of Agriculture at the Range Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho. Columbias are large, rugged, polled, open-faced, free of wrinkles and have proved highly productive in both wool and lambs. Mature rams weigh from 200 to 275 pounds and mature ewes from 130 to 200 pounds. The sheep are adapted to both range and farm conditions, and are becoming very popular. Members of the Association feel the sale will act as a means of getting good breeding stock distributed to interested breeders.

Ray Schnell, Dickinson, North Dakota, will auction the sale which is to start at 1:30 p.m., and M. H. McDonald, Extension Livestock Specialist at the North Dakota Agricultural College, will be the judge of the Show which will start at 8:00 a.m. on the same date.

Officers of the Dakota-Minnesota Columbia Sheep Breeders Association are:

Lloyd B. Stevens, Condo, North Dakota, president; Bjorn Fugelstad, Coopertown, North Dakota, vice-president; J. D. Hooten, Bordulac, North Dakota, secretary-treasurer.

The sale committee in charge is:

J. D. Hooten, Bordulac, North Dakota, chairman; H. B. Baeverstad, Cando, North Dakota; Bjorn Fugelstad, Coopertown, North Dakota.

Suffolk Stud Ram Tops Idaho Falls Sale

THE second annual Idaho Purebred Sheep Sale sponsored by the Idaho Purebred Sheep Breeders Association was held at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls on Tuesday, September 25.

Top price of the sale was \$127.50 paid for a Suffolk stud lamb consigned by L. J. Predmore, Rupert, and purchased

by Clarence Negus of Lemhi County. Elkington Brothers of Idaho Falls sold the top yearling Hampshire stud for \$100. Mr. B. D. Murdoch of Ucon, Idaho, sold two pens of 5 ewes to E. A. White of Idaho Falls for \$54 a head.

A pen of 5 Suffolk ewe lambs consigned by H. L. Lowe, Aberdeen, Idaho, sold for \$38 a head. A pen of 5 Hampshire ewes sold by Fullmer brothers, Roberts, brought \$26 a head. A pen of 5 Hampshire ewe lambs consigned by George A. Reed, Burley, Idaho, sold at \$35 each. A pen of 10 Panama ewe lambs sold by Thomas Bell, Rupert, went for \$31 each.

S. G. Johnson of Hope, North Dakota, purchased one Suffolk ram for \$90 and a Columbia ram sold by Cy Young, St. Anthony, brought \$85.

Total sales of 456 lambs and registered ewes brought \$13,926.

Rambouillet Stud Ram Brings \$450 at Wyoming Sale

GOOD attendance and good clearance in most instances were features of the annual ram sale held at Casper, Wyoming on September 19 and 20. Prices were lower this year which, of course, was anticipated in line with other sales throughout the West.

The Rambouillet stud ram which topped the sale at \$450 was consigned by Wynn S. Hansen of Collinston, Utah, and was purchased by Warren Johnson of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Robert Blastock, Filer, Idaho, took top honors in both the Suffolk and Hampshire stud sales. He sold a yearling Suffolk stud to Eva Hufford, Goose Egg, Wyoming, at \$150 and a Hampshire stud lamb to Jack Brodie of Lander, also at \$150.

High prices in the range Hampshire sales were also received by Robert Blastock who sold two lambs to Galbreath Brothers, Crawford, Nebraska, for \$75 each and two lambs to the Wyoming Industrial Institute, Worland, Wyoming at the same price.

The top sale in the range Corriedales was made by Malcolm Moncreiffe, Big Horn, who sold five yearlings to Paul Dodd, Sheridan, at \$50 each. The top yearling lamb Suffolk consigned by Robert Blastock sold to Frank Seven-

son, Sheridan, for \$100. Five range Columbians sold by William R. Wright, Gillette, went to John Brodie, Lander, at \$40 each. Four range Panama yearlings consigned by Laidlaw and Brockie, Muldoon, sold to Archibald and Innes, Savageton, at \$47 each.

Five Suffolk - Hampshire crossbred lambs sold by Robert Blastock to Bill Macfie, Lander, at \$46 each and Mr. Blastock also sold five lambs to O. J. Jendal, Casper, at the same price.

Williams and Pauly, Deer Lodge, Montana, received the top price in the Lincoln-Rambouillet crossbred sales. Five of their yearlings went to Tom C. Kirk, Freeland, for \$46 a head.

Approximately 1500 head were sold and a comparison of the averages for the last three years is as follows:

	1942	1943	1944
Rambouillet			
Range Rams	\$43.09	\$34.53	\$30.83
Hampshire			
Range Rams	31.80	40.12	34.50
Suffolk			
Range Rams	33.77	57.30	37.98
Corriedale			
Range Rams	37.35	33.42	27.25
Crossbreds	39.11	39.17	32.20
Panama Range Rams	51.11	35.47	34.30

Shropshire Ram Wins Top Honors at Iowa Sale

THE annual Iowa State Ram Show and Sale was held at Ames, Saturday, August 26. E. H. Rotter, West Point, Iowa, sold a yearling Shropshire to Max Browneller, Rose Hill, Iowa, for \$325, the top price of the sale.

The top-selling Hampshire was a first prize and champion sold by R. E. Pullin and Sons, Waterloo, Iowa, to Angus Moore, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, for \$260. The top-selling Corriedale was a second prize aged ram shown by Edmond Stone and Sons, Chariton, Iowa, to Lloyd E. Schaffner, Victor, Iowa, for \$300. High honors in the Oxford division went to R. E. Pullin and Sons, who sold a champion to Herman Wurster, Clearfield, Iowa, for \$175. A second-prize aged ram brought \$62.50, the high price in the Southdown sales and was shown by Kent Seely, Algona, Iowa. This ram was purchased by Lester Tomlison of Traer, Iowa. The top Suffolk ram was shown by Harry Jarard of New Sharon, Iowa, and sold to Fred Dumdie, Rockwell City, Iowa, for \$65.

Final results of the sale were 112 head at an average price of \$76.87.

1944 Sydney, Australia Sales

The annual Stud Sheep Fair was held in Sydney on May 29, 30, 31, and June 1. A total of 1274 Merino rams sold for \$322,549.84, making an average of \$254.18; in 1943, 1128 Merino rams averaged \$280. This year's top stud was a Haddon Rig ram (George B. S. Falkiner, New South Wales) which sold for \$7,144. Mr. Falkiner sold five studs in all, which brought an average of \$3,212.

No fault could be found with the standard of quality of most of the offerings, taking into consideration the very bad season through which they had been fed. Pastoral Review comments that plain-bodied sheep were predominant and the length of staple on many rams was remarkable. Australian breeders have not let up in their work of producing big-framed, robust sires, carrying great fleeces of dense wool with plenty of character.

At times the sales were characterized by desultory bidding and a patchy market. While some buyers unquestionably obtained sires for much less than they were prepared to pay, the aggregate total of all agents' sales speaks for itself and compares very favorably with last year's splendid results.

There were 112 Corriedales sold by 21 breeders at an average of \$256.85. A Wellwood special stud ram, lambd September, 1941, and showing six teeth, was sold at a worldwide record auction price for this breed at \$4,228. This ram was of tremendous substance, carrying a bold fleece of great length of staple, densely grown, and full of character, the wool being carried well down the points and underneath, and he looked all over a robust, masculine sire. Last year 123 Corriedales were sold at an average of \$200, with a top of \$1,326.

Wool growers are increasing their support of the Corriedale breed in every State of the Commonwealth, the Pastoral Review reports.

**SUPPORT YOUR STATE
ASSOCIATION**

Auxiliary Activities

Washington Reports

THE Women's Auxiliary to the Washington Wool Growers has a membership of about 90 at present. Many of our sheepmen in the state have sold out during the past two years, and due to the restriction of travel it is hard to contact prospective members personally; therefore, our membership roll suffers. Many of our members who are no longer actively interested in the sheep industry are our standbys still, realizing the need of our work. We are very grateful for these women but would like very much to include any new women who are eligible, and know we will have some worthwhile material when we can include them in our membership.

Three chapters are organized within our State, Klickitat County Wool Growers Auxiliary, Yakima Chapter and Lower Yakima Valley Wool Growers Auxiliary. Each of these chapters is interested in its own individual way in Red Cross and war work, doing the things most adapted to its community. Yakima Chapter does Red Cross sewing and knitting at each of the monthly meetings. Lower Yakima Chapter cuts squares of woolen materials, crochets around them and make afghans at its meetings. Yakima Chapter knitted an afghan and donated it together with a scrap book to McCaw Hospital of Walla Walla. It has also donated to the U.S.O. telephone fund which permits the serviceman drawing the lucky number a free phone call. The State Auxiliary held a Rummage Sale in June of this year and cleared \$141.00. Another rummage sale will be held October 20 and 21, 1944 in Yakima. Any contributions of rummage will be gratefully accepted and may be sent to Mrs. Clell Lung, 206 North Naches, Yakima, Washington. Washington State members are especially reminded to send whatever they have on hand, since rummage is in great demand. One sure way of helping the war effort is by putting in use articles we may have in our closet, and the public is only too glad to pay us a fair price for these things.. In August of this year, H. Stanley Coffin,

A float which won first prize in the Grandview Harvest Festival two years ago. The float is covered with all wool batting, the shepherdesses have all wool costumes and are children of the Auxiliary members of Lower Valley Chapter that entered the float.



Jr., of the Coffin Sheep Company of Yakima gave three rams to the State Auxiliary to be sold at the Oregon Ram Sale. This netted Washington State

Auxiliary \$60.00, which is to be donated to the National Auxiliary to carry on its work.

Mrs. Clell Lung,
President

Gleanings From "Early Klickitat Valley Days"

By Robert Ballou

Running of range sheep in the Klickitat Valley country began in the late '70's and early '80's. In 10 years this had increased to such an extent that flocks around 150,000 were owned in the county. Most men employed in handling bands were local residents. Several hundred were given seasonal employment as shearers, camp tenders, sheep shearers and extra help.

In 1888 mutton lambs sold at \$2 and wool at 10c per pound. Total proceeds from the sheep industry were \$118,480. By 1938, the total value of mutton and wool produced annually in Klickitat County was around \$500,000. There were about 60,000 head of sheep in range and farm flocks. Klickitat County in early days was very adaptable for running range sheep. Grass was plentiful for spring, fall and summer use. Most flockmasters had home ranch headquarters along the Columbia River, as they do now. A few pioneer-day flockmasters were known to the general public and other owners as "coyote" sheepmen. This meant they owned no land, but just moved about from place to place as change of season required. Perhaps the most outstanding example of these early day "hustlers" was a canny old country Scot named Douglas (Doug) McAllister. He was single, had a tent for his home, and

ate his meals out of a frying pan. He never bathed or changed his clothes except on periodic visits to towns where there was public bathing service and he could purchase new clothing. Barber shop owners were tempted to charge him double price for baths. He usually overcame this by getting a "whole works" barber job. He did not own a foot of land and never bought a bale of alfalfa hay unless the price happened to be so low his Scotch thrift would not allow him to pass up a bargain. When hay prices skyrocketed during hard winters he "took the pelts." This method made the size of his flocks vary considerably, but he always listed the same amount with tax assessors to keep his credit good at banks so that he could buy more sheep to take up the slack. He always wintered in some part of Horse Heaven. His flocks were usually lambled on Alder Creek and sometimes in the Simcoe Mountains, and wheat ranchers in open country found his philosophy had been put into practice when they gazed upon grain field, fenced pastures, and gardens after his flocks had trampled them. When they pursued him angrily he placated them by stating that his sheep were hungry and beyond control. He would then broach the subject of paying damages.

(Continued on page 40)



On the other hand Safeway's manpower-saving "invention" really works for farmers

You've probably heard of *distribution without waste* . . . the Safeway "invention" born twenty-eight years ago when we Safeway people started to improve on old ways of getting goods to the consumer.

This Safeway "invention" has worked to the farmer's advantage in more ways than one. It has cut out needless expenses and "waste motion" in-between the farm and the housewife. Our more efficient Safeway method has helped increase the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar.



It has boosted consumption. And it has offered savings to consumers.

Especially important during the war years, the Safeway method also saves manpower.

In some cases, Safeway's streamlined operations actually use less than half the manpower required by less efficient ways of food distribution. Such Safeway manpower savings have helped make more men available to America's manpower pool from which farmers must draw.

Incidentally, Safeway has made another saving in manpower by using women in place of men wherever possible. Before the war, over 90% of all Safeway employees were men. Today, more than 30% of Safeway manpower has been replaced by *womanpower*.



SAFEWAY
the neighborhood
grocery stores

P.S. Nearly one-third of all Safeway store customers are farm folk. We invite you to trade with us for one full month . . . and compare what you save. In war or peace, everybody benefits on the straightest possible road to market.

★ Plant more dollars into War Bonds! ★

New Plastic Furs

By Harriet Rivard, Associate Director of the American Wool Council

PLASTIC furs!—sheep in plastic wolf's clothing. And in lynx fox, skunk, blue fox, sheared beaver, seal, mink and sable clothing.

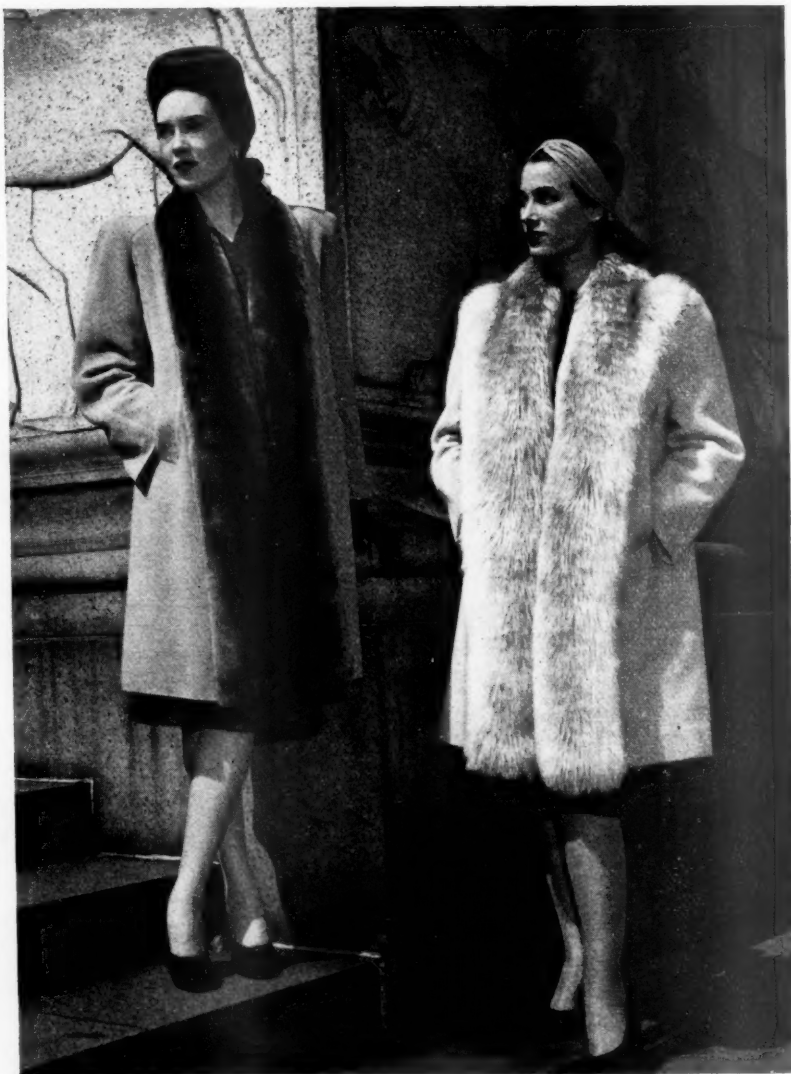
That's no Dali dream, but an actuality, and it has come about through the Calva plastic Process which makes sheepskins, including shearlings, simulate the most precious long-haired and short-haired furs.

This new plastic is far from being in the experimental stage. Winslow Bros. & Smith Company of Boston, a subsidiary of the Armour Company, has built a complete new plant in Norwood, Massachusetts, where it is now turning out Calva processed sheepskins for the Army Air Corps. That's why a girl who has always dreamed of owning a luxurious-looking fur coat without having to mortgage the old family homestead will have to wait a while longer—although Benjamin Harrison Weiss, New York representative of Calva Fur Patents Corporation, hinted to me that the public may be able to buy some of these within the next year.

What's more, it is claimed neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet can halt these sheepskin-furs from their appointed duty as practical winter coats. This plastic process is said to be water-proof, and, its inventor declares it even increases the beauty of the furs. If they should get soiled from the winter soot, you just take a damp cloth and wash them off. The strong quality of the sheepskin base also means you'll have a fur coat that "will never wear out."

As an illustration of what a market there is for these "plastic furs" is the near-riot that occurred in one of New York's largest department stores last spring when they offered a limited number of these plastic furs made of sheepskins which were government rejects of shearlings intended for aviators' uniforms.

This department store, purveyors of some of the most expensive and exclusive merchandise to be found in New York City, advertised these "plastic" furs in their debutante, or lower-priced, fur department. Hundreds of women stormed the doors of the fur depart-

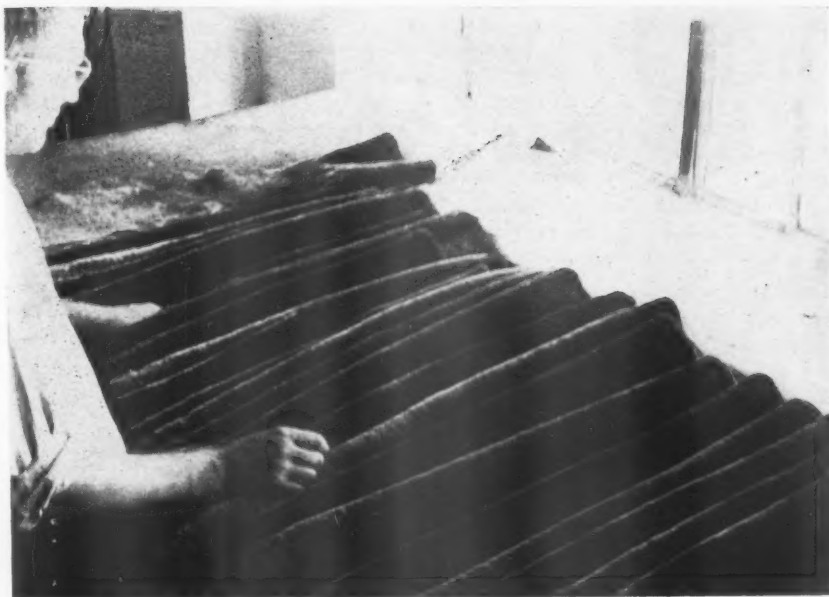


Wool on wool. These smart new topcoats have luxurious tuxedo collars of rich plastic furs of sheepskin which have been glorified with the new Calva plastic process. These coats were created by George Carmel, one of the country's foremost designers. Left, beaver tuxedo on cafe au lait wool; right, lynx fox tuxedo on pale, creamy beige wool.

ment to see these coats. In fact all other business was suspended in the fur department for a week. The all-too-few "plastic" fur coats, retailing at \$150, sold out in no time. The store, however, kept two of the coats for models to parade through the department so the crowds of interested women could see what they looked like. The introduc-

tion of these plastic furs is given credit for the subsequent sensational success of this fur department.

We saw the sheepskin in all the stages of the process from the raw hides down to the finished furs. The possibilities of these plastic furs appear to be amazing. They can be dyed in colors that were never seen on the back of any animals



Inspecting the "Mouton Nutria," "Mouton Beaver," "Mouton Seal," etc., made from sheep skins.

—sharp "high" colors or soft, melting pastels. Mr. Weiss told us that because of the process that has been applied to the wool fibers, they are able to achieve colors that it is not possible to get in wool yarns.

This means the launching of an entirely new fashion in coats for sports, for schoolgirls and for children—coats in gay colors for winter entirely of fur,

or in combination with wool, which will be within the reach of almost everyone. They may be used for luxurious lap-ropes, carriage robes for babies, and bedcovers of the type formerly dreamed up only for interiors in Hollywood productions.

Wearing these new plastic-processed sheepskins now completes the cycle begun when primitive peoples first used

the hide with the fleece to make garments to protect them from the elements.

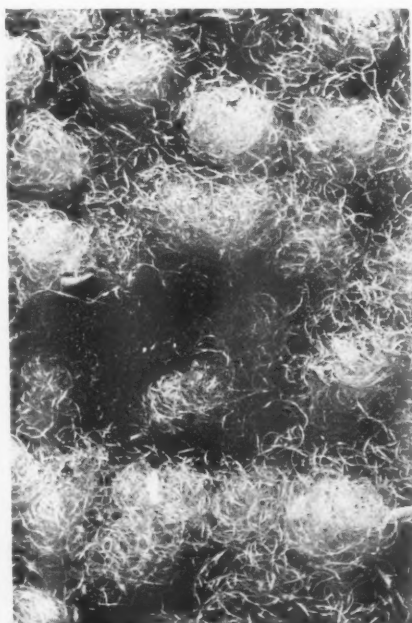
The Calva process is versatile, one that can also be used to make bristles more bristly or make harsh fibers softer. Mr. Weiss told us that he has made a cashmere-like fiber of Texas wool. Fibers treated with the Calva process are said to be shrinkproof, waterproof, and mothproof.

One of the country's largest rug companies is now making experiments to achieve interesting fur-effects with their carpet weaves with the application of this process as well as to waterproof them. Another important development of this process may be floor-size fur rugs of almost undreamed-of beauty and luxury for rooms done in the modern style of decoration. Upholstery of plastically-treated sheepskins is another possibility.

The Calva Process is the discovery of Dr. J. B. Calva of Minneapolis. The process straightens and softens the fibers of the fleece and gives them a beautiful lustre. To show the first results of the process, Mr. Weiss showed me two shearlings—one before and one after processing. Except for both being off-white in color, they appeared to have no other characteristic in common.

Mr. Weiss, who is a well-known fur expert in New York with years of experience in the most expensive furs, works out the application of the Calva Process to commercial use.

The value of the plastically-treated sheepskins for parkas for the air corps was found in their characteristic of easily shedding snow, sleet, and ice, and of being waterproof.



Magnified view of wool on sheepskin before processing.



Magnified view of wool on sheepskin after processing to imitate beaver.

Large UNRRA Woolen Purchases in Sight

The Commercial Bulletin reports that purchases for UNRRA by the Treasury Department Procurement Division of about 14,000,000 yards of woolens are in sight for the first quarter of 1945. The report came following a meeting of Treasury and industry officials. When the Army purchases for relief are included this will mean an approximate total in woolens for the first quarter of next year of about 25,000,000 yards. At present the Treasury Department is buying woolens in the open market wherever possible, according to the report.

Most Packers Support American Wool Council

REPRESENTATIVES of the American Wool Council, including Roscoe C. Rich, president; J. B. Wilson, vice president; Harry C. Devereaux, vice president of the National Wool Growers Association and member of the Executive Committee of the Council; and F. E. Ackerman, executive director, met with representatives of packing interests attending the Meat Institute Convention at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday evening, September 26th.

The meeting was arranged to discuss the participation by packers who are also killers of lambs in the program of the Council. Representatives of sixteen packing houses were present. After a discussion ably led by Mr. Rich, representatives of the packers present approved the program of the Council and either agreed to support it immediately on the basis of 1/6 of a cent per head of lamb slaughtered or to take up the matter with their associates and recommend favorable action.

The Council is indebted to Messrs. Homer Davison, vice president, American Meat Institute; F. M. Simpson and Garland Russell of Swift & Company; and to W. A. Netsch and Colonel Ed. N. Wentworth of Armour & Company, both for their assistance in arranging the meeting and for the support which they gave the Council during the discussions. The Council is deeply appreciative also of the cooperative attitude during the meeting of Mr. Edward F. Wilson, president of Wilson & Company.

It is also reported that other representatives of packers followed Mr. Wilson's lead and agreed to recommend to their companies that they support the American Wool Council.

The American Wool Council is grateful to the American Meat Institute for arranging the dinner and providing an opportunity for the Council's committee to talk to most of the packers who slaughter sheep and lambs. The results are very encouraging.

The committee reported that they were particularly impressed by the business-like way in which the convention was conducted, and with the caliber of the speakers and the frankness of the discussion. The American Meat Institute is to be congratulated upon the effectiveness of their organization.

Tests Prove Supremacy of All-Wool Blanket

By F. T. Mosedale, Textile Engineer
United States Testing Company

An important part of the conclusions respecting the superiority of wool over rayon and wool blended blankets as set forth in this article are the results of experiments conducted by the United States Testing Company on behalf of the American Wool Council.

FROM time to time the United States Testing Company, Inc., has been called upon to give its opinion as to the relative serviceability of 100% woolen or worsted articles against similarly constructed fabrics containing synthetic fibers in the blend with the wool. The tests that can be made on woolen materials are so numerous that conflicts in interpretation of results easily occur from the figures as determined by test. In other words, some individuals claim that the utility of a garment is determined by strength; others say that the abrasion resistance is the main criterion of a sample's worth; still others say that warmth should be the prime factor in gauging serviceability; while many state that a sample's ability to resist fatigue is of greatest importance in predetermining its expectant life.

It is our sincere opinion here at the Testing Company that the test to be used as a barometer of the serviceability of a fabric will vary with the individual case. In other words, we do not think it fair to state, for example, that the interlining with the highest strength or with the greatest abrasion resistance will give the greatest service.

We believe that the important factors to be considered in judging interlinings are the warmth and the ability to show little shrinkage in cleaning. Furthermore, we also believe that in the case of testing a specimen for warmth, consideration should be given as to how warm the sample will be after it has been subjected to a period of use or a number of cleaning treatments. As an example, let us take the general case of blankets and illustrate some of the points we have found from a goodly amount of testing over the past five years.

Not in line with the belief of some individuals, the warmth of a new blanket does not depend primarily on the fiber content. The construction (height and closeness of nap mainly) of the new blanket is the prime factor influencing heat insulation powers, with fiber content of secondary importance.

This Company has tested rayon-blend blankets whose warmth retaining qualities in the original state rated coefficients as high as 1480* in still air. At the same time, some 100% wool items comparable in weight but not in thickness to the rayon blanket have been found to test as low as 1000* in still air. Certainly, from these two results it would not be fair to infer that rayon is warmer than wool since two blankets of the same fiber percentage and weight as above could be constructed with the wool sample being the thicker and the warmth ratings would hence be reversed from the first instance.

The aforementioned citations have been in regard to new blankets before they have been laundered or subjected to any amount of actual use and illustrate the point that the construction rather than the fiber content is responsible for ratings in the original state.

After being subjected to laundry treatments or treatments simulating actual use, however, a different story is presented and it is at this point that the fiber composition of a blanket plays an important role. The ability of a fiber to spring back to its original position in the nap rather than stay down and form a part of the basic construction after being compressed, has a marked influence on the warmth reading after launderings or "use" treatments. Many blankets are made with a nap too high for permanency since the individual fibers are not anchored well enough and become detached from the fabric during washing or use. These factors influence the warmth readings greatly and it is the characteristic resiliency of the wool fiber together with its ability to become well anchored and at the same time form part of a relatively high

nap that allows this type blanket to regain a good deal of its insulating powers after laundering or "use" treatments.

The blanket that possesses a nap that will contain an abundance of small air pockets for utilization in the retention of heat both in the original state and after the above mentioned treatments is naturally the more desirable.

To date the inherent qualities of the wool fiber as used in a blanket have not been duplicated and from observations made it can be stated that wool substitutes, although testing as warm in the original state and being comparable in construction to the woolen blanket tested, may not prove as serviceable after a period of use as a blanket constructed the same with the exception of the fiber content being 100% wool of good quality.

Two blankets, one composed of 100% wool and the other composed mostly of rayon and cotton, both approximately the same weight and thickness in the original state, were subjected to a warmth test in still air before and after our "use" treatment. This use treatment consists of subjecting the blankets to a pulling and nap compressing action simulating that encountered when the bed clothes are stretched, pulled or otherwise altered in shape. In the original state, both blankets tested approximately the same (1475*) but after being subjected to the "use" treatment the rayon and cotton fabric had a rating of 1170* while the 100% wool blanket had a coefficient of 1300*. This graphically illustrates the influence the wool fiber plays in retaining a maximum of insulating powers after use.

The contention that wool blankets in general stand up better after use than blankets using synthetics is also borne out by the following actual test results. Both samples were of practically the same weight and thickness and were each laundered ten times in a commercial laundry. They were then each given 400 single strokes in both the warp and filling directions on the United States Testing Company, Inc., Abrasion (Wear) Tester. Sample (A) contained 5% wool, the rest a blend of cotton and rayon while sample (B) was composed of 100% wool. The nap of blanket (A) was nearly entirely eliminated while (B) still retained most of its original nap.

We are not trying to say that all woolen blankets will *always* be better than all blankets composed of a blend of wool, cotton and synthetic fibers. You in the industry certainly have found out that there are inferior grades of wool and have experienced many headaches during the manufacture of woolen materials.

The purpose of this article is to attempt to dispel any arguments that the complete serviceability of a fabric can be accurately forecasted by merely making tests in the original state without taking into consideration the performance to be expected after the fabric has been subjected to a period of use. At the same time, we want to say that it is also not fair to judge a material's worth by the results of one type test without exploiting its performance under other conditions.

*Warmth factor determined on U.S. Testing Company Warmth Tester.

War Goods Production in 1944 Between 1943 and 1942 Output

The Office of War Information reports an estimated 1944 production of wool fabrics (defined as containing 25 per cent or more wool fiber) to reach 530,000,000 linear yards, reports the Commercial Bulletin.

Civilians have been allocated about 374,000,000 yards, the military about 136,000,000 yards and export 20,000,000 yards. According to the report, production of wool fabric in 1943 was 536,000,000 linear yards and 527,000,000 yards in 1942.

Contributors to the Wool Promotion Fund September, 1944

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McLeod Bros.
Angus McIver
Lloyd McMin
Ervin Otteson
Parma Wool Pool
Kay Peterson
S. W. Pencock
W. J. Pierce
J. W. Robertson

Reat & Sova
Rulon Rhodehoun
Ralph Ringel
Blaine Rumsey
Kenneth Roberts
G. E. Talbot
Ivan H. Stover
LeRoy Sausey
Rudolph Schwendiman
Godfrey Schwendiman
LeGrande Smith
C. B. Taylor
O. E. Virgin
W. T. Williams
Earl R. Wilding
Vienna Welding
W. B. Wickham
John Zweifel

MONTANA

W. J. Beecher
C. C. Coffey
Deer Lodge Farms Co.
Leo J. Ernst
Gleed Brothers
H. C. Kuhr & Son
Estate of O. H.
Knifer
Miller Brothers
Martin O'Neil & Son
Pioneer Ranch Co.
Antelope Ranch Co.
Stanford W. Skelton
A. P. Williams
Williams & Pauly
Whitworth & Sons

NEVADA

Juan Arambarri
Jean and Arnold Aldax
Clover Livestock Co.
Pete Corta
H. E. Carter
Mrs. H. E. Carter
Pete Elia
J. P. Ellison
Javier Goyeneche
Manuel Iturri
Lee Livestock Co.
Florentino Larraneta
Paul Mirandebore
Mono Land &
Livestock Co.
McBride Sheep Co.
Pete Olabarria Co.
Pine Forest L. & L. Co.
Smith Creek L. S. Co.
Utah Construction Co.

NEW MEXICO

Filberto Arretche
R. B. Candelaria
Juan Garcia Y. Gonzales
Pedro Mandagaran

OREGON

Gus Bezates
John Bergstrom
A. J. Barnes
H. A. Cohn
Bert Cason
Mrs. Marie Corta
Cunningham Sheep Co.
Patrick Carty
F. V. & Gordon
Chapman
Ralph Chambers
W. M. Dobbin
John W. Densley
Jose Eigaren & Son
D. F. Fraser
Alex & Cornett Green
Fred Hoskins
Earl P. Hoag
A. D. Hileman
W. D. Hardie
Denis J. Herlihy
Joseph M. Hayes
Felix Johnson
Krebs Bros.
Carl Kelly
Jos. B. Kenny
W. P. Kilkenny
John Madden
C. N. McLaughlin
Frank Monahan
L. D. Neill
F. W. Owen
Roy Philippi
Wm. H. Padberg
L. E. Pearson
Mary S. Pedro
A. W. Rugg & Son
C. B. Rea
G. P. Simpson
Stephen Thompson
Leon Thompson
Ralph I. Thompson
Paul Webb, Jr.
Frank Wilkinson

(Continued on page 40)

A Navy Man Reviews the Wool Situation

The article following came from Ensign Ralph S. Yohe of the United States Navy without solicitation or request. It is an article which is well worth reading concerning what should be done to protect our vital product, wool.

Here is a navy man who is really thinking of the future, and thinking of the future of a very important industry. It is time for the grower to show such alertness for the future of his product.

—Editor's Note

SUBSTITUTES for wool will be found! They will be given to the public and gradually absorb most of the market now reserved for wool.

Chemist friends assure me that due to the complexity of the wool molecule, no synthetic wool possessing all the desirable qualities of wool, elasticity, luster, strength, warmth, lightness, durability, is apt to be discovered in the near future. Repeated attempts with milk, soybeans, and wood have failed or met with only meager success.

This would eliminate the sheepman's favorite nightmare. But hold on! Wool's active competitor will not come as a single invasion but as many beachheads. No one textile is apt to capture all wool's present domain. But here one fiber will take over, there another, and yonder a third, and so on.

Yes, every textile represents a competitor of wool. Rayon ties compete with wool ties. Cotton summer suits compete with "Palm Beach" and gabardine suits.

The wool market can be saved, cannot only be saved but expanded, by a simple three point program. 1. Improve wool as a commercial textile. 2. Explore and develop new markets. 3. Advertise wool as the *quality* product it is.

Wool can become a finer textile by research and improvements in the fields of breeding, nutrition, pathology, marketing, and management.

Research into fundamental breeding problems, the production of sheep of superior wool-producing strains, and a better understanding of genetics by the breeders as a whole will make possible the production of a longer, more uniform and stronger fiber. The Western

Sheep Breeding Laboratory at Dubois, Idaho, is establishing inbred superior wool-producing strains. In the future these strains may become the means of raising the level of uniform high quality fleeces among commercial range sheep.

Nutrition speaks for itself. The discovery of phenothiazine marks one accomplishment in pathology. The wool producer following closely in the wake of the research technician can produce a finer fiber.

The proper marketing of wool has long been emphasized but greatly neglected.

A finer fiber will reach the market when a discriminating market demands and pays for a quality product.

The chemical treatment of the wool fiber to make it "non-scratching," "non-shrinking," and "moth-proof," are only beginnings in the field of chemical processing of the wool fiber. By attacking the wool molecule itself, insulation, luster, strength, warmth, and softness can be varied or increased to meet specific uses. A one pound blanket may be made as warm as a two pound blanket.

New uses can be found for wool. Already the treatment for shearing pelts to make beautiful furs offers marked possibilities in the postwar world. The use of wool for summer wear could be expanded in both men's and women's wear.

The third step is that used by every manufacturer of new as well as old products—advertising. DuPont spent \$8,000,000 in developing nylon. They immediately spent another \$1,000,000 in telling the public about nylon. Today the word "nylon" has become a household term. Every year Ivory Soap spends a million dollars to tell the public "it floats."

Every time you open a magazine you are met with a full colored page telling you that Chesterfields "satisfy."

When you turn on your radio a deep golden voice tells you that "Lucky Strike green has gone to war."

But how many times have you opened your magazine and found so much as a little corner telling you that wool is warm and soft? How many radio an-

nouncers whisper to you in rich baritone that "wool has gone to war?"

Ensign Ralph S. Yohe, USNR
USS LCI (L) 950
Fleet Post Office
New York, New York.

The Work of the Community Credit Corporation

LAURENCE MYERS, director of the General Crops Division of the War Food Administration, has released the figures on what the Community Credit Corporation has done in the 1943 and 1944 wool purchase programs. Mr. Myers tells us that the C.C.C. has purchased 434,000,000 pounds of wool, of which over 275,000,000 were purchased under the 1943 program. Approximately 170,000,000 pounds (August 19) have been sold, which left a balance of 264,000,000 pounds in stock on that date.

Purchases of 1944 wools up to August 19 have totaled 158,600,000 pounds. However, 250,000,000 pounds had been appraised, but not paid for by the Community Credit Corporation. It is realized, of course, that it is necessary that the wool must be appraised before it can be purchased and paid for under the program. In addition, dealers notify the growers of the appraisal results and then wait for 15 days before sending out the account sales and the payment in order to allow the grower to exercise his right of demanding reappraisal if he so desires.

As has been reported before, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has estimated the 1944 shorn wool production to be 355,000,000 pounds. In addition there is between 60 and 65 million pounds of wool pulled from the skins of slaughtered sheep and lambs each year. It is also reported that only about one per cent of the shorn wool is purchased and handled in the scoured state. For this reason Mr. Myers has sent an accompanying table which gives the results concerning wool in the grease.

1943 AND 1944 WOOL PURCHASE PROGRAM

Grade and Classification	Purchases to Date		Sales to Date		Stocks on Date of Report	
	1943 Program	1944 Program	1943 Program	1944 Program	1943 Program	1944 Program
SHORN WOOL						
Grease Wool:						
64/70s	107,106,410	81,845,363	80,987,803	16,433,661	76,099,843	65,409,961
60/64s	25,596,249	18,178,520	11,210,068	3,751,437	14,459,933	14,427,214
60s	15,688,357	6,179,941	6,511,400	1,744,646	9,228,372	4,459,442
58s, 56/58s	32,094,854	17,909,420	24,784,353	4,141,024	7,288,772	13,747,856
50s, 48s	25,428,088	15,427,255	23,359,665	8,187,895	1,972,686	7,208,649
46/48s	1,471,710	1,212,857	835,941	115,778	628,863	1,101,016
44s, 40s, 36s	474,687	330,736	46,260	12,857	429,740	317,778
Navajo	135,162	13,291	—	2,058	135,162	12,713
Untied Fleeces	—	59,887	—	—	—	59,887
Offsorts	11,425,897	4,465,478	6,352,572	993,165	5,081,052	3,512,687
TOTAL	219,421,414	145,617,748	104,088,062	35,352,521	115,324,423	110,257,203
Grease Wool:						
Shorn	219,421,414	145,617,748	104,088,062	35,352,521	115,324,423	110,257,203
Pulled	26,557,264	5,389,552	12,202,122	1,267,644	14,373,243	4,122,119
Total Grease Wool	246,078,678	151,007,300	116,290,184	36,620,165	129,697,666	114,379,322
Scoured Wool:						
Shorn	2,657,491	1,104,493	659,013	103,884	2,001,402	1,000,226
Pulled	26,880,544	6,502,889	14,143,074	1,993,124	12,738,702	4,509,429
Total Scoured Wool	29,538,035	7,607,382	14,802,087	2,097,008	14,740,104	5,509,655
GRAND TOTAL	275,616,713	158,614,682	131,092,271	38,717,173	144,437,770	119,888,977

War Food Administration
Commodity Credit Corporation

The Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1943 program purchased 219,000,000 pounds of shorn grease wool, as you will see by the table. Of this, 104,000,000 pounds, or approximately one-half, had been sold by August 19. The purchaser of 36s, 40s, and 44s amounted to less than 500,000 pounds in 1943, as is shown in the accompanying table, of which about 10 per cent has been sold. In 1943, purchases of 46s and 48s amounted to nearly 1,500,000 pounds, 75 per cent of which has been sold. Purchases of 48s and 50s exceeded 25,000,000 pounds, and the sales to August 19 exceeded 23,000,000 pounds, or 92 per cent.

You will notice that the finer grades have not sold as well. Of the grades 56s and 58s, purchases amounted to 32,000,000 pounds, and sales have been made of approximately 75 per cent. The sales of 1943 wools grading 60/64s are about 40 per cent of the purchases, while the sales of 64/70s amounted to only 30 per cent of the purchases; and this grade, of course, constitutes by far the largest amount of wool of any of the grades.

Mr. Myers points out that, stated another way, the purchases of fine wool constitute approximately 50 per cent of the total purchases under the 1943 program. Whereas the sales of fine wool constituted only 30 per cent of the total sales under the program. This same trend, he continues, is apparent in the 1944 figures, but that it is too early in

the year to determine whether the differences between the sales percentage for the various grades in 1944 are significant.

The C.C.C. had on hand August 19 more than half of the total quantity of wool it had purchased under the 1943 and 1944 programs, and stocks are expected to increase materially as purchases exceed sales during the remainder of the calendar year. The problem of disposing of wool under the program is much greater for fine wool than it is for medium grades.

Ex Parte 148 Freight Rates

The Interstate Commerce Commission had ordered that the increased railway rates, fares and charges, 1942, proceeding be reopened for further hearing before commissioners Aitchison, Mahaffie, and Splawn on October 23, 1944 at 10 a.m., at the office of the commission. This proceeding is in connection with the restoration of the freight rate increases which were suspended until January 1, 1945. It is expected that the National Wool Growers' counsel, Charles E. Blaine, will appear on behalf of the livestock interests in effecting if possible, not a 6 months' period suspension, but a complete cancellation of these increases.

University of California Book Review

The New Philosophy of Public Debt. Harold G. Moulton, President, The Brookings Institute, 93 pages. Published by the Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C., 1943.

IN high Government circles today there are two different and opposing philosophies relative to public finance. One of these, the *traditional* view, is that a continually unbalanced budget and a rapidly rising public debt imperil the financial stability of the Nation. The other, or *new* conception is that a *huge public debt is a national asset* rather than a liability and that continuous deficit spending is essential to national economic prosperity.

The traditional view is held by the U.S. Treasury, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the President, numerous congressional leaders and many others in key positions in the administration. The *new* conception is advocated by the National Resources Planning Board, by numerous persons high in government councils and various outside groups. Among these are Adolph Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, Professor Alvin Hansen, special economic advisor to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Stewart Chase, nationally known economist, and others. The author, Moulton, is old fashioned; he holds the "traditional view."

Excerpts from writings and speeches of adherents of the "new conception" are revealing: "We shall come out of the war debt free. We shall have no external debt, only an internal debt . . . An internal debt is in fact so different from what we commonly think of as debt . . . that it should scarcely be called a debt at all."

"The attack on chronic unemployment by means of public expenditures financed by a *continually rising public debt* is essentially a conservative proposal."

"Once freed from the *obsolete* concept of the balanced budget the larger uses of federal taxes can be creatively explored."

(Continued on page 23)

Wool in Review

THE MARKET

TRADING in domestic wool has been very quiet according to reports from the eastern seaboard, with manufacturers confining their purchases to the smallest amount of domestic wool possible, contemplating Government contract terminations. Fine and quarterblood territories were purchased only against immediate needs for government goods. Three-eighths blood wools have improved in demand recently, but in no great volume. Pulled domestics have, however, maintained a steady demand.

There has been considerable increase in the demand for foreign wools, particularly Argentine, of which there is a short supply; and it would appear now that wools from Argentina will be in short supply for some time to come, due to the differences between the two governments.

Sale of Stockpile Wools

A very strong demand for Australian wool was evidenced by the results of the 14th auction sale of the Defense Supplies Corporation wools. 11,243,838 pounds were sold from an offering of 15,083,801 pounds, which included 12,670,000 pounds in the number 14 catalog. Over 74 per cent of the wools offered were sold.

Approximately 11,000,000 pounds of this sale consisted of Australian greasy wools. Approximately 70 per cent of the lots sold went at the upset price and the others at margins ranging from one-eighth to two and three-eighths cents.

Two future auctions have been announced for October 11 and October 25. It appears that there is a plan now underway with the Defense Supplies Corporation whereby wools that have been withdrawn from the auctions will be made available to the industry at all times. The D.S.C. will appoint authorized selling agents, and it is understood that they will use the wool trade selling facilities to the fullest extent, including dealers, local brokers, and also importing brokers. This plan has not materialized, but should be determined very shortly.

C.C.C. Appraisals

As of October 1, appraisals under the 1944 marketing program have reached 284,088,251 pounds, which includes approximately 250,000,000 pounds of greasy shorn, 1,500,000 pounds greasy pulled, and 16,000,000 pounds scoured pulled. A breakdown of the purchases of the Commodity Credit Corporation to August 19 will be found in this section.

Further Interest in Foreign Wools

There is a very active interest reported in imported Cape and Australian wools, and the demand for further imports seems to be holding up. It appears that the shipping situation has improved considerably from Montevideo and the War Production Board is granting import licenses up to 500,000 pounds of wool per person. When this amount is imported, consideration will be given for an additional 500,000 pounds. Further than that, no policy has been determined. It is expected, of course, that the remaining government-owned Uruguayan wools are, and will be, coming from Montevideo as rapidly as shipping space is available.

Surplus War Supplies' 3-Man Board

Senate and House conferees have agreed on a 3-man control board to dispose of surplus property. Members will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Board members will be paid \$12,000 a year for a term of two years with headquarters in the Office of War Mobilization or its successor.

Government Contracts

Announcements are continuing to be made of contract negotiations for the manufacture of 32-ounce meltons, O.D. woolen drawers, O.D. underwear, and 18-ounce scarves and caps.

Wool Imports

Reports indicate an increase in the purchase of foreign wools. According to the announcement: "United States active in buying Australian wools for import. Recent arrivals of Uruguayan wools cause Montevideo wools to ease slightly."

Price Spread Further Widened

A telegram received from F. Eugene Ackerman, executive director of the American Wool Council, states:

BRITISH TODAY REDUCED DIS-FROM 6½ TO 8½ PER CENT; ON 50/56S, 6½ TO 9½ PER CENT; BELOW 50S, FROM 6½ TO 12½ PER CENT. GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD TO PUT BRITAIN IN BETTER COMPETITIVE POSITION WITH THE ARGENTINE.

Our interpretation of this means that the British have again reduced the issue price of their three-eighths, quarter, and low quarter wools approximately 2 cents a clean pound on the present basis. You will recall that in June, 1942, the British wool control announced a 15 per cent increase in price to the Australian woolgrowers. But due to the efforts of Kenneth Marriner and others of the War Production Board, this increase in the issue price of 15 per cent was reduced by 6½ per cent. However, it was understood that the reduction made would not affect the Australian grower, but that he received the full increase, which actually amounted to a 6½ per cent subsidy.

This latest action on the part of the British Government probably means that the price to the grower is not affected, but the price to the market has been reduced by 2 per cent in the case of 56/50s, 3 per cent in the case of 50/56s, and 6 per cent in the case of 50s and below. This, of course, means that from a price standpoint British wools are placed in a still more favorable competitive position with domestics.

Opposition to Dean Hill Plan

Reports from Boston indicate that the Boston Wool Trade met on October 5 to prepare a program of opposition to the adoption of the Dean Hill Plan. Nothing further is known about what their intentions are in this regard, or what their objections may be, but no doubt this will be brought to light when the work of this association begins on this proposal adopted by the Executive Committee at its August meeting.

A Proposal for Wool

Dr. S. W. McClure has made the following proposal as a method for handling the wool problem:

Be It Enacted:

That where the government of the United States, through any department as a war measure, took action, by directive or proclamation or otherwise, to increase the supply of any agricultural or livestock product classified as a strategic war material and fixed ceiling price thereon, and as a result has created a surplus of such products beyond the immediate demands of the domestic market. Then the government through the proper department shall maintain ceiling prices until such time as the total stocks of such products throughout the nation shall have been reduced to the level existing at the time ceiling prices were imposed. And thereafter no person shall import from any foreign nation any product that comes under the provisions of this act until a license has been issued by the department handling such product and if, in the judgment of such department, such imports would interfere with the purpose of this act then the foresaid department shall refuse to issue such license.

What Would You Think of This?

What would you think in the consideration of the continuation of a wool purchase program by the Commodity Credit Corporation that the domestic wool clip be purchased on the present basis until sheep numbers showed an increase, or until the amount of wool on a grease basis purchased by the C.C.C. exceeded last year's purchases by 10 per cent; second, that the first year after numbers started to increase, that the price paid by the C.C.C. be reduced to 100 per cent of the comparable price, (at the present time, this would average approximately 38 cents as far as averages go, but would vary with the commodity price index); and third, the second year after numbers started to increase, purchase would be made on a basis of 90 per cent of the comparable price.

Washington Counsel For Wool Trade

The Boston Wool Trade Association announces the appointment of Mr. Clinton M. Hester to represent them as their counsel in Washington, D. C. No doubt Mr. Hester will attend to the legislative matters which come up affecting the Boston dealers.

New Philosophy

(Continued from page 21)

The idea seems to be that since the money owed by the Government is owed to its own citizens and since, in a democracy, the citizens themselves are the Government, the debt is simply something we owe ourselves and therefore, it makes no difference whether it is paid or not. Under such a plan the amount involved is of no consequence. Indeed, Seymour E. Harris, associate professor of Economics at Harvard, says, "If *** we could attain a national income of \$200 billion, plus the interest on Government securities, then a public debt of \$4,000 billion (4 trillion) might well be within the realm of possibility." In other words if the Government spends ten billion dollars on roads it doesn't owe anything at all because the people have the roads to balance the ledger. By the same token if a wool grower borrows money to buy \$50,000 worth of collar buttons, he isn't in debt because his books will show assets of \$50,000 worth of buttons to balance the \$50,000 indebtedness on the page opposite. It is hoped that you ignorant country bankers in Deer Lodge, Montana, Twin Falls, Idaho, and Mt. Pleasant, Utah, will enlighten yourselves on this point and get away from the old worn-out idea that an honest sheepman ought to pay his debts. In the past we have conceived the individual to be the basic unit of the country and have predicated our laws on protecting his rights. We have considered the municipality, the state and the nation to be aggregates of individuals with the same rights and responsibilities. Under the new concept, the Government is entirely apart from the individual, at least financially.

What's the matter, you sheep herders? Don't you like the idea?

J. F. Wilson

Further on "Hill Plan" Opposition

According to the Commercial Bulletin, the National Wool Trade Association is preparing to definitely oppose the "Hill Plan" for handling the wool problem. They say it would divert the demand for wool to other fibers, and would deprive the wool dealers and brokers "of the last refuge for free enterprise by eliminating them from participation in any foreign business."

Surplus Property Disposal

ON September 14, the conference committees of the Senate and the House agreed on the Surplus Property Act of 1944, which bill was signed by the President on October 3. The objective of the act is to attempt to regulate the disposal of tremendous surpluses of both real and personal properties which have been determined to be surplus to the needs of the country as a whole.

Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado, as chairman of the conference committee for the Senate, has worked on this very difficult legislation, keeping in mind the interests of this western country. In quoting from a letter by him, he states, "At least to some extent, surplus property affects nearly everyone of our 130 million people. It is without any question the most difficult legislation with which anyone in Congress has had to deal. . . . If able men are appointed on the surplus property board, a good job of disposal will be had, but absolutely everything depends upon the kind of men who are named. In other words, the problem of disposal can be met fairly well under this legislation. . . . We require that disposal shall be made through regular trade channels and that great care be exercised not to upset the economy of the country."

Under this act, there is established in the Office of War Mobilization a surplus property board which is to be composed of three members appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. This board shall have general supervision over the care and handling and disposition of surplus property between the various government agencies. It will be the duties of this board to assign "surplus property for disposal by the fewest number of government agencies practicable and, so far as it deems feasible, shall centralize in one disposal agency the responsibility for the disposal of all property of the same type or class."

The act also states that the board shall devise ways and means and prescribe regulations in cooperation with the W.F.A. providing for the sale of surplus property in such quantities and in rural localities, and in a manner that will assure farmers equal opportunity with others to purchase this surplus property, and that in cases where a shortage of trucks, machinery, and equipment impairs farm production, the

board is to develop a program in cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Agency whereby a reasonable portion of this equipment may be made available for sale in rural areas.

Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Commodities

Subject to the supervision of the board, the War Food Administration is given the official responsibility for the formation of policy with respect to the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities and surplus foods processed from agricultural commodities. The administration of the policy will be by the disposal agency or agencies designated by the Surplus Property Board.

It will be the duty of the War Food Administration to formulate policies which will prevent surplus agricultural commodities from being dumped on the market in a disorderly manner and disrupting the market prices for the agricultural commodities.

In the disposal of surplus cotton or woolen goods, the Act states that written approval must be secured from the War Food Administration before any action can be taken by the Board. It is also stated that "surplus farm commodities shall not be sold in the United States under this Act in quantities in excess of, or at prices less than, those applicable with respect to sales of such commodities by the Commodity Credit Corporation, or at less than prevailing market prices, whichever may be higher." Should these commodities, however, be disposed of for export, the above current prevailing market prices do not apply. The Commodity Credit Corporation may dispose of any farm commodity or product without regard to restrictions with respect to the disposal of commodities imposed upon it by any law, provided that no food shall be sold for export if there is a shortage of such food or food product in the United States, or if the food is needed to supply the normal demands of consumers in the United States.

Disposal of Surplus Real Property

According to the terms of this act, real property consists of land, together with any fixtures and improvements thereof. It provides for the manner of disposal of real estate and, in connection with any land designated by the Gov-

ernment as surplus that was acquired after December 31, 1939, the person from whom such property was acquired shall be entitled to purchase such property in substantially the identical tract as when acquired. If, however, the land is not designated as surplus, or has been disposed of to a federal agency for its use, or has been disposed of to local governments or non-profit institutions, or has been classified for a purpose different from that for which it was originally used, the former owner may be offered other surplus real property in the same area for purchase at private sale if property is available which is suitable for the purpose needed.

If the original owner does not wish to exercise his option of purchase, the property may then next go to any tenant who was on the property at the time of the government acquisition, and he may purchase this land at private sale at any time during a ninety-day period so designated. The price to be paid under this provision is to be adjusted to reflect any increase or decrease in the value of the property resulting from action taken by the Government, or a price equal to the market price at the time of the sale, whichever price is the lower.

If none of the above options are exercised, and if the property is classified as suitable for agricultural use, it may be subdivided whenever practicable into economic family-sized units. Veterans in this case shall be granted a preference in the purchase of such property over non-veterans and, in the case of agricultural property, it shall be disposed of insofar as possible only to persons who expect to cultivate the land and to operate it for a livelihood. Loans may be secured under the Bankhead-Jones Act and the Service Men's Readjustment Act of 1944.

Many interested parties in the East have been very critical of the provisions of this act, stating that there are bargains to be had in war goods and that preferential treatment is being given small businesses, farmers, and veterans under the act. Based upon a fair analysis, what right could any individual feel that he had over a former owner of land when it is declared surplus by the Government and to be disposed of at a price that the former owner had to take when the Government first took it, or based upon its increased or decreased value because of government use. Surely no one can deny that a man who has

been on the actual fighting front, and with no home to return to, should be given a preference in the purchase of a home and the chance to make a living over the man who is and has been established during this war period.

There is no doubt that, as Senator Johnson says, with a problem of such magnitude, the proper operation in carrying out of the law will depend largely upon the type of man appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate to serve on this board.

In the reading of the debate of both houses of Congress, it is certainly plain what the intention of Congress has been regarding this law and that their desire is to see that fair treatment is given to all concerned in the order of their rights.

California Sheepmen Slate Meetings

CALIFORNIA Wool Growers Association reports that a series of 17 district meetings from Southern Oregon to the Mexican Border will take place during October and November. The purpose of these meetings will be to formulate policies to govern handling of sheepmen's problems during the coming year. It has been urged that all sheepmen attend these district meetings to register their opinions as to what should be done. The government wool purchase program will receive special attention. Also methods of making appraisals and sales of "off" wools, dressed lambs and mutton ceilings, and meat rationing. Problems of truck and railway transportation, tire and gasoline rationing, herders and shearers, feed costs, predatory animal and dog control, disposal of surplus government land, and sheep diseases and eradication will come in for their share of consideration.

President J. L. Sawyer and other officials will attend the meetings including specialists from colleges and departments of agriculture along with W. P. Wing, secretary of the California Wool Growers Association. Predatory animal control officials will also be present at all the meetings.

The California Wool Growers Convention will be held following these meetings on November 16-17 in San Francisco.

Grazing District Notes

Third Quarter

NOTES on range conditions in 60 grazing districts are furnished by the Grazing Service, Salt Lake City, Utah. This information is based upon quarterly reports of regional graziers in 10 Western States for the period of July to September, 1944.

At the close of the summer period, stockmen in the northern districts were busy shaping their herds for all movement to the winter ranges. Shipping of beef and lambs was active. The winter range outlook is very good in most areas, but summer rainfall has been light or absent in most states south of Wyoming and a number of stock water reservoirs are dry. Water developed from underground sources is holding well.

During the 12-month period ending June 30, 1944, the Federal range was used by 10,694,305 livestock belonging to 22,562 licensed operators. Sixty-four per cent, or 14,400 of the operators were on a 10-year term permit basis. As fast as the necessary data can be gathered, assembled, and agreed upon, those qualified are receiving term permits.

The number of licensed operators increased by 543 over the previous year while the total number of livestock decreased 83,488 head.

Comparative figures on range use for the fiscal years 1943 and 1944, in which time the total acreage of Federal range remained about the same, are shown below:

	1943	1944	Change
Total Livestock	10,777,793	10,694,305	83,488 ¹
Cattle	1,864,437	1,990,272	125,835 ²
Horses	129,246	127,701	1,545 ¹
Sheep	8,672,926	8,482,376	190,550 ¹
Goats	111,184	93,956	17,228 ¹
Total No. Licenses and Permits	22,019	22,562	543 ²

¹ Decrease
² Increase

Arizona

C. F. Dierking, Regional Grazier

Range conditions on grazing districts in Arizona vary widely—from critical in the extreme north, to favorable in most parts of the southeastern portion of the state.

Reports from the Arizona Strip indicate only light scattered showers during the summer with no benefit to forage or stock water. Stock tanks are drying up and even strong springs show a diminished flow. Unless rains develop by the middle of September, a heavy reduction of livestock will be necessary to prevent starvation losses in the coming winter. Livestock, however, have been in fair condition to date. Indications are that the lamb crop at shipping time will be up 5 to 8 per cent from the previous year, due primarily to favorable lambing conditions the past spring. Most of the lamb crop has been contracted for fall delivery at prices ranging from 10½ cents to 14½ cents. Local supplemental feeds are reported scarce, and little hay will be available. The Kingman and Maricopa Grazing Districts report little or no rainfall in the lower ranges, with drouth conditions prevalent. Higher ranges have had moderate though somewhat spotted rainfall and are still in good condition. Stock are holding up well. The Safford Grazing District has had good summer rains, except in small localized areas, with ranges and livestock in good condition.

Feed conditions appear favorable for sheep operators wintering in central Arizona with ample irrigated pasture in prospect. Cottonseed cake is now available in small quantities with good possibilities for the new crop. Cake is now quoted at \$54 per ton. There has been some increase in alfalfa acreage in the central valley.

Range labor is still scarce in all districts. No transportation difficulties are anticipated this fall. There has been very little buyer activity and no demand for stock or feeder cattle reported.

Colorado

Russell B. Rose, Regional Grazier

Unfavorable growing weather prevailed throughout all of the Colorado grazing districts during July, August, and early September; however, winter forage growth is above normal due to exceptionally good growing conditions

during the early growing season. An abundance of irrigation water provided an above normal hay crop, and due to dry weather during haying operations, our hay crop is above average in quality.

Grass cattle are average or above in weight and going to market in record-breaking numbers with an increased buyer demand at the terminal markets, particularly during the latter part of the quarter.

A careful survey of the lamb situation indicates at least a 15 per cent reduction in numbers of lambs from average, with a small increase in percentage of feeder cut-backs. Some feeder lambs are being contracted with the heaviest demand for the weightier kind. Numerous operators are still on the fence awaiting assurance that there will be ample wheat pastures in Kansas.

Overall cattle numbers continue to increase in grazing districts, but due to uncertainties in the sheep industry and lack of efficient help, there is little indication that there will be any increase in breeding ewes during the next breeding season.

There will be a scarcity of stock water on desert winter ranges unless rains occur prior to the opening of the winter grazing season.

Idaho

Kelso P. Newman, Regional Grazier

The ranges throughout the State are in excellent condition. A late spring followed by general rains up to about June 30 resulted in ample although retarded growth at medium to high elevations. As a result the ranges are greener than usual at this time of year and all areas are carrying a heavier crop of grass. With less than the usual fire damage, good fall range is assured. Favorable summer range for late fall grazing will result in delayed movement of livestock from higher to lower ranges. Livestock are in very good condition. Lambs have been heavier than usual and there will be a marked increase in the weights of cattle going to market this fall.

During the latter part of August and the first part of September there was

an unusually heavy run of cattle to market and there is every indication that cattle movements to outstate markets will be proportionately strong through October.

Montana

R. E. Morgan, Regional Grazier

With the exception of local areas north of Milk River in the Malta district, the range, livestock, and moisture condition in Montana's six grazing districts are very good.

Most of the State has received above normal moisture over a 4-month period, June to September, resulting in more forage, reduced fire hazard, and late cure of grass.

Lower than normal summer temperatures prevailed throughout most of the region.

Range cattle marketing started about one month earlier than usual, at good prices. Sheepmen report that lambs are doing well and some contracting for early fall delivery has taken place at prices ranging from 10 to 11½ cents.

Nevada-California

Nic W. Monte, Regional Grazier

The boundaries of the California-2 (Honey Lake), Nevada-2 (Pyramid), and Nevada-3 (Virginia City) grazing districts were modified during the last quarterly period to conform with unit operations and to facilitate administration. The area embraced in northern Washoe and northwestern Humboldt counties of the Pyramid District was added to the Honey Lake District, and southern Lassen and southern Washoe counties were taken from the Honey Lake and Pyramid districts and added to the Virginia City district. This change in boundaries will facilitate administration and combine operations into administrative units so that inter-district use will be reduced as much as possible, and stockmen will deal with one district office instead of two or more.

Advisory board elections are being scheduled in all districts of the region beginning early in October. In districts where modification of boundaries has been made, an election for an entirely new advisory board will be held, and in the remaining districts the term of approximately one-third of the members will expire.

During the month of August the Grazing Service has further cooperated with stockmen in making recommendations on bombing and aerial gunnery ranges which have been requested by the Navy Department. This Service is cooperating toward the continuation of the use of the areas by livestock so that a certain part of the areas will be zoned and livestock use can be made at a time when the Navy is not using zones within the range.

The summer ranges in the Nevada-California region are drying very fast, no moisture having been received for a number of weeks. Livestock are in fair to good condition, and several shipments are being made to the fat livestock and feeder livestock markets.

New Mexico

E. R. Greenslet, Regional Grazier

Range conditions are good in the northwestern districts, fair to poor in the west-central portion, and fair to good in the southern part. Ranchers generally advocate a policy of reserving enough range for insurance against drought. Most of the stockwater reservoirs held up well despite spotty rainfall.

Conditions of cattle are fair to good with some poverty losses reported in the west-central part of the state, where the calf crop is reported to be only about 50 per cent of normal. In the southeast section the drought of early spring gave cattle a poor start from which they have not recovered.

Generally speaking, the situation has been better for sheep but lamb turnout will be considerably below last year.

Livestock sales are slow due to a lack of buyer interest. As a result there is hesitancy on the part of the grower who is confronted with uncertainty of both range forage and supplemental feed for the months ahead.

The ranch labor situation continues unsatisfactory. Many ranchers are endeavoring to meet this handicap through pooling of available labor.

Chaco District, New Mexico

Harry W. Naylor, Regional Grazier

Range conditions in northwestern New Mexico as of September 1 were far below average. Stock water supplies are only 75 per cent of normal.

With a lamb crop 10 per cent below average and unsatisfactory summer range, feeder lambs will be light, the Navajo type lamb possibly averaging 50 pounds.

Lambs owned by non-Indians, especially those summered in the high areas, will show about average weights but below normal in numbers. Good prices are offered for these lambs, some having been contracted at 12 to 12½ cents. Demand for the lighter Navajo lambs is weak and traders are disturbed by the outlook.

Oregon

Kenneth C. Ikeler, Regional Grazier

Ample summer moisture, following a dry spring, resulted in good range conditions during the quarter although most eastern Oregon ranges are becoming seasonably dry. Both cattle and sheep are above average in flesh and weight.

Buyers are active in the region and prices are about the same as last year. Fat cows are in demand while movement of yearlings is slow because of the longer feedlot period required and incident uncertainties of industrial and market conditions.

Permittees are still facing too heavy predator losses and we have made arrangements with Fish and Wildlife Service experts to demonstrate to range users the best methods of handling poison bait on the range. The tight ammunition situation has eased somewhat and indications are that it will get better.

Lamb weights are favorable but sales are slower than usual, due in part to reported lateness of wheat fields in western Kansas which normally absorb a part of the early run of feeder lambs.

Utah

Chas. F. Moore, Regional Grazier

Utah has experienced one of the driest summers in recent years; even the usual July and August thunder storms were lacking in most of the State. As a result moisture is needed to preserve the forage growth on the winter ranges. Despite an excellent spring which gave all forage a favorable start, the summer

(Continued on page 38)

New Poisonous Weed Invades Western Ranges

By Arthur H. Holmgren

New Plant Introduced From Siberia And Poisonous to Sheep Spreading Rapidly in Three Western States

Roadsides throughout the grazing ranges of Utah are rapidly being invaded by a recently introduced poisonous weed which has entered western Utah from Elko County, Nevada. The weed, introduced from Siberia, is botanically known as *Halogeton glomeratus* (M. Bieb.) C. A. Mey, and has no acceptable common name. In view of this and the need of a common name for a plant of such tremendous economic importance the generic name, *Halogeton*, is proposed.

Halogeton was first collected in this country by Ben Stahmann of the U. S. Forest Service at Wells, Nevada, in August 1935. In 1937 it apparently was still confined to Wells and immediate vicinity, occupying an area within approximately a twenty-five mile radius around Wells. This indicates that the place of introduction was in Wells or a nearby ranch. At the present time *halogeton* is known in three states and can be expected to become as generally distributed as Russian thistle and other introduced weeds on our western ranges.

In Nevada *halogeton* is known to be in Elko, White Pine, Eureka, Lander, Humboldt, and Pershing counties; in Utah in Box Elder, Tooele, Juab, and Millard counties; and in Big Horn county, Wyoming. A detailed survey would undoubtedly add other counties to the known distribution in this country.

Halogeton belongs to the goosefoot family (*Chenopodiaceae*), which contains plants familiar to the farmer and range livestock man. It includes such plants as sugar beets, white sage, greasewood, and Russian thistle. It is evident then that *halogeton* belongs to a family which is well adapted to desert conditions and generally tolerate considerable amounts of alkali.

Halogeton has a close relative in Russian-thistle and is frequently mistaken for it by livestock men. It may be distinguished from Russian thistle by several easily recognized characters. The leaves in both *halogeton* and Russian thistle are round in cross sections. However in *halogeton* the leaves end abruptly

ly in a sharp hair-like point, while those of Russian thistle gradually taper to a sharp point. The flowers of *halogeton* are without the three bracts which together with the leaves make Russian thistle so unpleasant to the touch. In the spring *halogeton* has a bluish color, while Russian thistle is green. As the season advances *halogeton* usually becomes more or less reddish, while Russian thistle becomes purplish.

Halogeton is a prolific seed producer. At maturity the winged cover around the seed is conspicuous. Numerous seeds and winged bracts enclosing them often form a solid mass from the ground to the tips of each branch to the extent that the fleshy leaves are entirely hidden from view. The embryo, or germ, of the seed is spirally coiled as in Russian thistle. *Halogeton* seeds germinate quickly when optimum moisture conditions exist. The number of rainstorms throughout the season could be rather accurately counted by the successive stories of *halogeton* which extend in step-like fashion from the roadsides.

Halogeton is primarily a roadside weed, although it is occasionally found considerable distance from roads in newly disturbed areas. A good stand of native vegetation seems to be an effective barrier to migration away from the frequently disturbed roadsides, although a few radiating tongues are to be found here and there on wind-swept points. As a roadside weed the plant has been rapidly spread by highway equipment, especially road graders, which pick up myriads of seeds in heavily infested areas and then plant them along the way. *Halogeton* is highly adaptable to different types of soil, being found in alkali places in bottom lands to areas well up into the aspen of our higher mountains, but reaches its best development in shadscale types where considerable amounts of alkali are present and the number of competitors much reduced.

Probably the most important feature of *halogeton* is its poisonous nature. Chemical analysis of the plant shows considerable amounts of oxalates to be present. The amount increases as the growing season advances. Late in the fall as much as 20 per cent of the total

dry matter of the plant is oxalic crystals, and much of it in a water soluble form. This undoubtedly explains why the plants are less toxic after fall rains and especially so after the first winter thaw. The crystals are large enough to be readily perceptible with an ordinary hand lens.

There have been several losses of sheep in Nevada from excessive grazing along roadsides where *halogeton* occurs in dense colonies. These losses are usually in the fall of the year just preceding fall rains. After the first winter thaw the plants can be utilized without much danger.

Professor C. E. Fleming, in charge of Range Management, Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station, discovered the poisonous properties of *halogeton* in 1942. Subsequent feeding tests have confirmed his original conclusions. Mr. Fleming and other staff members of the Nevada Station are carrying on feeding and chemical tests which will undoubtedly be published in the near future. Both sheep and cattle are being used in the studies, although no definite cattle losses have been attributed to *halogeton* poisoning.

The oxalic acid is not at all cumulative and small amounts of the plant can be consumed day after day without any ill effects. As has already been pointed out, losses usually occur in the fall, and then most likely when the sheep are being trailed to the winter range. A hungry animal which is allowed to fill on *halogeton* containing oxalates as high as 20 per cent of the dry weight of the plant can be expected to die within a few hours.

To cope successfully with this new range menace seems to be entirely a problem of range management practices. The weed will not crowd out good stands of native forage plants. It is only along bare roadsides and where native vegetation has been killed out by over-grazing, erosion or other causes that *halogeton* spreads. From distribution studies it appears economically unsound to attempt to eradicate such a vigorous, aggressive plant which already covers thousands of acres in three states. By maintaining and improving our ranges we can hope to keep *halogeton* along the roadsides. And if livestock men learn to recognize the plant and avoid it entirely through the critical fall period, losses from *halogeton* poisoning will be practically eliminated.

(Reprinted from *Farm and Home Science*, published by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, December, 1943.)

Lamb Market Reviews and Trading Activities

AS usual the movement of spring lambs off western ranges rapidly gained momentum during September. Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada were the main sources of supply during the first part of the month and Montana and Wyoming began marketing in volume the last half of the month. During the first part of the month, lower prices accompanied the sharply increased receipts. Slaughter spring lambs dropped 50 to 75 cents and ewes were steady to 25 cents lower during the first week of September in the 12 main markets. Some interests attributed the down-turn in fat lamb prices to the tight labor situation and the inability of packers to gear killing operations to the increased receipts; although the 300,000 head of salable sheep and lambs offered at the 12 principal markets the first week of September fell far short of the 404,000 head offered during the same week last year.

Most good and choice western spring lambs sold at \$13.50 to \$14.25 during the first week of September, although some choice Colorados did reach \$14.75. Feeding lambs sold at \$12 to \$13.50.

During the second week of September the 12 main markets received 365,000 head for sale, a large supply, although about 100,000 short of the same period in 1943. There was somewhat of an up-turn in the market, attributed to a broad demand at several markets and also the fact that live prices were attractive in relation to ceiling prices on the dressed product.

Most slaughter classes advanced 25 to 50 cents during the second week of September. Fat lambs at most markets were steady to 25 cents lower, although at Fort Worth they did not follow the general trend and sold 25 cents to \$1 higher. Most good and choice spring lambs sold at \$13.50 to \$14.25, although numerous lots of choice Colorados brought \$14.40 at Denver and best westerns reached \$14.60 at St. Paul.

Strictly good and choice shorn ewes sold at \$6 on the Chicago market, the highest paid since the middle of July.

Good and choice range feeding lambs sold from \$11.75 to \$13.50.

During the third week of September the 12 main markets received 400,000 head of salable sheep and lambs. Heavy receipts again had their effect; prices on fat and feeding lambs dropped about 25 cents. Slaughter ewes however were steady to 25 cents higher. The price range on good and choice slaughter spring lambs was \$13.50 to \$14.75; good and choice range feeding lambs, \$11.50 to \$13.25; medium to choice slaughter ewes \$4.50 to \$6.

Salable receipts during the last week

of September were again large. A good demand on most markets, however, held prices fairly steady.

Contracting of Feeder Lambs Continues Light

There was very little activity in the contracting of feeder lambs in the Rocky Mountain and West Coast regions during the last half of September. Rains on the West Coast will probably improve grazing at lower elevations and storms in the California mountains are bringing lambs down to the lower country.

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

Total U. S. Inspected	1944	1943
Slaughter, First 8 months	13,688,110	13,648,077
Week Ended:	Sept. 23	Sept. 25
Slaughter at 32 centers	423,576	532,256
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Spring)**		
Good and Choice	\$14.38	\$14.06
Medium and Good	12.62	12.40
New York Average Western Dressed Lamb Prices*		
Choice, 30-40 pounds	26.38	26.38
Good, 30-40 pounds	24.88	24.88
Commercial, all-weights	22.88	22.88

Weight, Yield and Cost of Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered

	August, 1944	July, 1944	August, 1943
Average live weight (pounds)	86.0	82.6	88.4
Average yield (per cent)	45.8	45.9	44.9
Average cost per 100 lbs. (\$)	11.27	10.97	10.48

Federally Inspected Slaughter—August

Cattle	1,339,198	988,472
Calves	756,149	433,873
Hogs	4,145,212	4,464,437
Sheep and Lambs	1,923,765	2,268,573

* These carcass prices reported by the Livestock and Meats Branch of the W.F.A., are ceiling prices.

** While Chicago average prices for the week ending September 23, 1944, are above the same week last year, average prices at Omaha and Kansas City and Denver were somewhat lower than the same week last year.

An abundance of sunshine in the middle western feeding areas is advancing the corn crop to maturity in most sections. Indiana reports the greater part of their crop is safe from frost and Iowa reports 42 per cent now safe (only about 6 per cent below normal).

In Western Kansas considerable stubble fields are available for replacement of range grazing. Wheat planting in this area is about three-fourths finished.

Activities in Montana during the last week in September were mostly on ewes. Approximately 1400 head of black-faced yearling ewes sold at \$9.25 cwt. for immediate delivery. A sale of old ewes brought \$3 per head. A sizable band of Mt. Adams lambs sold on a basis of about \$11.50 cwt., carrying an estimated 50 per cent in slaughter flesh.

Some contracts in eastern and southern Oregon at \$10.75 to \$11, including a sizable slaughter end, have been reported. Movement from higher ranges to the lower grazing areas, as in California, has been accelerated by storms.

Lamb contracting in the Colorado range area was rather inactive during the last two weeks of September. However, it is indicated that the majority of the good and choice lambs of most desirable weight have already been disposed of by growers. The same condition is true in Wyoming where it is reported that most of the desirable weight and quality lambs were sold early in the season.

E.E.M.

Lamb Report— —Corn Belt States

Stocker and feeder sheep and lambs received in 8 cornbelt states from January 1 to August 31, 1944, inclusive totaled 485,433 as compared with 561,267 for the same period in 1943, or a decrease of 13.5 per cent, according to the figures of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Nebraska reports an increase of 22.9 per cent for this period. Iowa, which is one of the large lamb feeding states, shows an increase of 6.9 per cent.

These figures include sheep and lambs sold at both the public stockyards and those that were sold direct. The state of Kansas is not included in the total figure.

October, 1944

The Cold Storage Situation

THE National Committee for Farm Production Supplies reports that because of the record out-movement of meats and some reduction in the stock of shell eggs in August, the cold storage situation is less critical. Cooler occupancy is down three points, but the relative percentage of freezer occupancy is unchanged.

An additional half-million cubic feet of space was held at freezer temperature on September 1 as compared with August. In order to provide more cold storage space for fruits, the War Food Administration has prohibited the storage of dried and evaporated fruits in refrigerator warehouses until December 31.

The Office of Distribution of the W.F.A. shows that on the 1st of August, 1944, there were 101,000,420 cubic feet of piling space in public cold storage warehouses, and 89 per cent of this space was occupied. Private and semi-private warehouses show a total net piling space of 11,014,000 cubic feet, and were 80 per cent occupied. Meat packing establishments have a net capacity of 27,760,000 cubic feet, and were filled to 86 per cent capacity.

Processors figure that about 15 pounds of carcass lamb may be stored per cubic foot of usable freezer space. It is possible to place about 25 pounds of boneless lamb or other meat packed in boxes per cubic foot. Where the lamb and mutton is frozen for export, it is usually placed in telescopic form and, according to W. A. Netsch of Armour and Company, somewhat more may be stored per cubic foot than in the case of carcass lamb.

The War Food Administration reports on September 1 that the total meat in storage is 82 per cent of the August 1 total, and 102 per cent of September 1, 1943; and 129 per cent above the 5-year average. Total frozen lamb and mutton on hand September 1 amounted to 15,220,000 pounds, or 120 per cent of that on August 1; 110 per cent as compared to September 1 a year ago, and 251 per cent over the 5-year average.

New cold storage order by War Food Administration limits the total quantity to frozen fruits and vegetables and package frozen fish to the quantity stored October 1, 1943.

Lamb Markets

Denver

SHEEP receipts at Denver for September, 1944, totaled approximately 551,000 head compared to 550,000 head in September, 1943, an increase of about 1000 head. During the first nine months of 1944, receipts totaled 1,456,000, compared to about 1,584,000 in 1943, a decrease of approximately 128,000 head.

During the first week of the month 26 doubles of choice Colorado springers sold at \$14 late. These scaled under 90 pounds, mostly around 85 pounds, being lighter than most topky lambs received earlier in the week. Some choice around 75 pounds stopped at \$13.85. Choice truckins averaging a little above 90 pounds went at \$14, equaling the top on carlots. Early in the week, the top was \$14.75, paid for 19 doubles of choice 83 to 104-pound Colorados. Choice truckins sold up to \$14.50 at that time. Good and choice range springers closed at mostly \$13.50 to \$13.75 and killers bought medium to good kinds at \$13 in load lots. Ewes held around steady. Most slaughter ewes brought \$2.75 to \$4.50 with culls at \$2 to \$2.75. A few good and choice truck-ins sold up to \$4.75 and one rail load scored \$4.85. Feeding lambs developed some activity late, load lots going out at \$11.50 to \$12.50, the inside price taking mostly good 58-pound offerings. Solid mouth breeding ewes averaging around 125 pounds sold at \$5.25.

For the next week, broad shipping orders helped to move the season's largest crop of slaughter spring lambs to date, at unevenly higher prices. Medium to choice grades closed mostly 15-25c higher, with spots up more. Strictly choice Colorados reached \$14.40 late, and many good to choice loads sold at \$13.75 to \$14. Salable receipts were stepped up sharply, spring lambs averaging under 90 pounds predominating. The majority graded choice, or good and choice. Choice truck-ins bulked at \$13.75 late, with good and choice kinds at \$13.25 to \$13.50. Other classes showed no quotable change. Good and choice slaughter ewes topped at \$4.85 and several loads of the best truckins made

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ASHLAND, OHIO

The house upon a laboratory

\$4.75. Over 80 per cent of the lamb crop was in killer flesh, leaving only a relatively small number available for the country. Good and choice replacement range loads sold at \$11.50 to \$12.75, the latter price taking feeding lambs averaging 76 pounds.

The third week of September saw sheep receipts the largest of the season, to date, and the market held up well considering this factor. Choice loads of around 84-pound spring lambs sold at \$14.15 to \$14.25, others grading good to choice went largely at \$14. Quality was best of the season, but the run included relatively few lambs scaling above 90 pounds. Choice truck-ins, also the best grade received recently, made \$13.90. Ewes closed fully steady. Good and choice kinds sold at \$4.75 to \$5.15 on killer account. Trucked-in ewes with less quality and finish usually bulked at \$3 to \$4.50 with culls \$2.00 to \$2.50. Good and choice range feeders averaging 57 to 70 pounds went out at \$11.50 to \$12.50.

During the last week under review, salable receipts again upped to become the largest of the season, including a preponderance of choice Colorado fat spring lambs. Attractive quality, in turn, helped to support prices, along with broad shipping orders. The close on fat spring lambs was mostly steady. Ewes got brisk action on killer account each day, and showed a little strength, while feeding lambs held steady. Strictly choice Colorado fat spring lambs sold up to \$14.40, the top for the week. There were 15 doubles at this price on Tuesday. On the following day, 7 doubles averaging 89 pounds topped at \$14.35. Very little, in the run, scaled over 90 pounds, springers averaging 75 to 85 pounds predominating. Killers got scattered medium to good loads at \$12.50 to \$13.25, along with a sizable showing of feeder-type throwouts at \$11 to \$12. Choice trucked-in fat spring lambs reached \$14. A 3-load string of good and choice 137-pound ewes reached \$5.25 on slaughter account, others, usually with less weight, going at \$4.75 to \$5.10. Trucked-in ewes did not beat \$5 for slaughter, the bulk going at \$3 to \$4.75. There was a generous selection of feeding lambs and many good to choice loads averaging under 68 pounds went at \$11.75 to \$12.25. A few brought \$12.35, mixed fats and feeders scaling a little over 70 pounds going out at \$13.60. Trucked-in feeding lambs ranged from \$9 to

\$12, the bulk selling at \$10.50 to \$11.50. Short term breeding ewes brought \$5.50.

Jacqueline O'Keefe

Omaha

HEAVER than normal receipts and a depreciating trend in the quality of the offerings combined to push fat lamb values down on the Omaha market during September. Range lambs closed 25 to 50 cents lower than the end of August and, at one time, declines had been even more severe than that. Percentage of fat lambs in the run was not excessive; feeders made up at least 50 to 60 per cent of the run every day during the month, and there were days toward the close when as many as 80 per cent of the western lambs on offer were in feeder flesh.

At no time during the month were there more feeders available than the demand could absorb readily. However, feeder prices did show some recession in sympathy with the fat lamb break. A late fall in the cornbelt was allowing some late corn to mature that had been given up for lost, and this was an encouraging factor in the trade, since it gave some assurance against feed scarcity. Sharply reduced hog numbers and a tendency toward marketing hogs lighter than a year ago promised to make considerably more corn available for other kinds of livestock, both cattle and sheep. Wheat pastures in western Kansas and eastern Colorado, which promised well a month ago, were furnishing little feed after fully two months of dry weather and that was adding somewhat to the number of feeder lambs on the market, as quite a few strings of lambs that had been bought to go onto wheat pasture were coming directly here from the range.

Ewes failed to share the lamb slump and closed up firm for the month. Slightly better competition was being offered by country buyers for breeding ewes than at any previous time this season, and that served as a prop under prices. Closing tops in all branches of the market included ewes at \$5.00, fat lambs at \$14, and feeders at \$12.75.

Byron Demorest

Ogden

RECEIPTS of sheep and lambs at Ogden during September amounted to 347,539 head as compared with 477,717 head last year, bringing the total receipts for nine months to 1,477,663 head, which is a decrease of 132,868 head from last year. Sales for the month approximated 64% of the receipts as compared with 40% for same month in 1943.

Receipts for the first two weeks were heavy but dropped almost in half the last two weeks of the month.

During the first week, the fat lamb market showed a sharp decline of fully 75 cents from the closing August prices, while feeders were 10 to 15 cents lower. Good and choice Idaho range lambs were selling at \$13.75 to \$14 then dropped to \$13.25. Range feeding lambs went from \$12.65 down to \$12.50. Good ewes brought \$4.35 to \$4.50, sorted.

The run was still heavy during the second week but the quality was down. Prices on fat lambs were steady with feeders dropping slightly. Good and choice Idahos and Utahs sold at \$13.40 with the bulk going at \$13 to \$13.25. Mixed fats and feeders sold at \$12.60 to \$12.75. Feeding lambs brought \$12.40 with bulk at \$11.75 to \$12.25. Practical top on good ewes was \$4.35 sorted but bulk sold at \$4 to \$4.25 with outs at \$2.

The receipts during the third week reduced practically 50 per cent with quality still declining. Prices were steady on fat lambs which brought \$13.60 for strictly choice Utah truck-ins with bulk at \$13.25 to \$13.50. Good and choice Idahos sold at \$13.40 down to \$13.25. Good and choice feeders brought \$12.40 with fleshy mixed kinds at \$12 to \$12.25. Ewes brought \$3.75 to \$4.50 sorted.

The last week saw receipts increase slightly over the previous week but still light compared with last year. Prices held steady on fat lambs according to quality. Good and choice fat springers, mostly Idahos, sold at \$13.25 with others at \$13 to \$13.10. There were 27 doubles mixed fats and feeders which sold at \$12.60. A few choice feeders brought \$12.25 with mixed black and white faces at \$11.50. Good and choice range ewes made \$4.25 to \$4.35 with outs at \$2. Bulk sold at \$3.75 to \$4.

Truck-in receipts for the month were

about the same as last September, running over 70,000 head. Receipts from Nevada showed a marked decrease of nearly 35,000 head, while the balance of the decreased receipts were a result of the reduction in Idaho lambs, as forecast last spring.

One of the highlights of the Ogden lamb marketing season was the heavy receipts from the Soda Springs section of Idaho, which is the first time shippers from that section have sent their lambs to the Ogden market. This was due primarily to the heavy demand from Pacific Coast buyers which made it more than worthwhile to ship this way instead of to Denver and other eastern markets.

C. R. Knowles

Chicago

THE supply of ovine stock at Chicago for the month of September was 182,000 against 250,000 a year ago and 266,000 in 1942. The total was the smallest for the month since 1940. There was a noticeable swell in receipts around the market circle, however, as is usual at this time of the year. About 63 per cent of the local supply came consigned direct to packers. Most of the lambs came from the west, Washington, Idaho and Montana contributing freely. From native sources receipts were close to normal figures. Because of war conditions the distribution of lambs this season has been considerably dislocated, many going direct from the ranches to the Pacific coast for slaughter. Thus far this year the local supply totaled 1,410,000 against 1,602,000 for the first nine months last year. Twenty primary markets so far this year have received 13,000,000 sheep compared with 12,406,000 for the same period last year.

During the month there was a fairly uniform market with prices showing moderate changes. At the start the best lambs sold at \$14.65 and at the close the top was \$14.40. There was a soft spot in the middle of the month when receipts were liberal and demand weak. A large percentage of the western lambs sold at \$14 to \$14.50 during the month while medium to good natives were listed at \$13.50 to \$14.25 and low graders down to \$10 and under for common culls. The average for all slaughter lambs was close to \$13.75. Compared with a year ago there was not much difference with top at \$14.90 and the average of all lambs at \$13.70. Buck lambs comprised about the usual

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Write for Bulletin 246

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proportion of the receipts and sold at a
discount of \$1 from other lambs.

Demand for feeder lambs was better
but not many are coming in. There
was a healthy outlet for all that arrived
to midwest farmers. A range of \$12
to \$13 took most of the feeders during
the month with the general volume
light because buyers were not able to
find as many as they wanted. Some
choice Montanas sold at \$13.50 for top
with 73-pound weights at \$12.75 and
55-pounders at \$11. It is reported that
many farmers are making direct con-
tracts on the ranch for later shipments,
indicating that the feeding volume in
the central states will probably equal
last year. The government report for
July and August shows a total move-
ment of 485,000 against 561,000 for the
same period of last year. Many farmers
this year have delayed buying in order
to get a better line on the corn crop.
Now that a good crop is assured buying
will be measurably increased. During
the month some shorn yearling wethers
went out at \$10.50 and ewes at \$5.

Demand for aged sheep was strong
and active most of the time. Ewes of
good quality met with a strong demand
most of the month, selling up to \$6 for
selected western with many at \$5 to
\$5.75, and culls down to \$10 and under.
Buyers put considerable stress on the
quality of the pelts.

There was a good call for yearlings
during the period with demand best for
handyweights. Small lots of the best
sold at \$12 to \$12.50, with a good many
of plainer quality at \$11 to \$12. The
market was ragged and uneven for the
lower grades.

The slaughter of sheep is running
about 12 per cent less at 37 markets
than a year ago which really reflects
the proportional reduction in receipts.
According to reliable figures supplied
by the agricultural department the con-
sumption of mutton products is higher
in relation to beef and pork. This is at-
tributed to the increased demand for
the armed forces. During the last week
of September the slaughter of sheep and
lambs in the United States was 458,000
against 527,000 last year. The Pacific
area accounted for 118,000 of the
month's kill. For the year thus far the
slaughter of ovine stock is about the
same as a year ago. The amount of
lamb in cold storage is at a record level,
the last report showing over 15,000,000
pounds compared with a five-year aver-
age of 6,000,000 pounds.

Traders look for a good market dur-
ing the coming month, largely because
of a shortage in pork. Many local re-
tailers of lamb say they are unable to
get as much of the product as they
need.

Frank E. Moore.

St. Joseph

SHEEP receipts for the month of Sep-
tember were 111,107 compared with
83,257 in August and 130,942 in Septem-
ber a year ago. Of the month's total
around 45,000 were from native terri-
tory, and the balance were practically
all from the West.

The lamb market was somewhat un-
even during the month and closed 50
to 75 cents lower, with natives show-
ing the most loss. Best westerns sold
up to \$14.25 early in the month, but on
the extreme close \$14 was the best price,
with others at \$13.25 to \$13.75. Best
natives sold at \$13.50 on the close com-
pared with \$14.25 a month ago.

Feeding lambs were in fairly good
demand, with closing values about 75
cents lower. Early in the month most
good kinds sold at \$13.25, but on late
days the outside price was \$12.50. Fat
ewes closed around 25 cents higher,
with best natives the last week up to
\$5.25 and with westerns \$5.25 to \$5.35.
Best shorn yearlings sold at \$11.50 to
\$12, with others \$10 to \$11.25.

H. H. Madden

Getting the Predator

THE Fish and Wild Life Service of the
Department of Interior have re-
leased their reports for the fiscal year
1944 which runs from July 1, 1943, to
June 30, 1944. In all of the states, the
Service has cooperated with the De-
partment of Agriculture, Extension
Service, Grazing Service, livestock pro-
ducers associations and other organiza-
tions. The activity from three of the
states is reported here.

NEVADA:

In Nevada during the past fiscal year,
predatory control operations have been
in effect with respect to coyotes, bob-
cats and to a lesser extent, wild dogs and
mountain lions. During the year Fed-
eral and State hunters have accounted

for 9,790 coyotes, 704 bobcats, 3 mountain lions and one bear, making a total of 10,498 predators. Rodent control was also carried on in the Nevada district. Many methods were used to take these predators—traps, guns, and poison baits, and also “coyote getters.”

IDAHO:

The report from Idaho indicates that 16,215 man-days were spent in taking predators. A total of 9201 animals were taken consisting of 8800 coyotes, 328 bobcats, 61 bears, 11 mountain lions, 1 wolverine. As can be seen, the coyote is the principal predator of this state. The control measures used include steel traps, humane coyote getters, poison, den hunting, shooting and running them down on horseback through deep snow. In addition to this work the Idaho division carried on extensive rodent control on a total of 678,673 acres, using 122,364 pounds of bait and over 30 thousand gas cartridges.

UTAH:

In the State of Utah, Fish and Wild Life Service during the fiscal year spent \$108,370 which includes funds spent in the Arizona Strip. These funds were provided by direct appropriation for the State, Department of Agriculture, Fish and Game Commission, Grazing District Advisory Boards and cooperative organizations. A total of 7429 predators were taken by an average of 51 hunters. Of this number 6657 were coyotes, 717 bobcats, 48 mountain lions, and 7 stock-killing bears. An extensive poison campaign was used on the Arizona Strip and other poison work was done throughout the region. All other methods were used in getting these coyotes. It is understood that this number indicated does not include coyotes taken under the Utah Bounty Law.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to their work on the coyote in the various states, also continue to assist in control of rats, field mice, prairie dogs, pocket gophers, ground squirrels, rock chucks, and jackrabbits.

The reason that the activities of only three states were reported is because we lack the information on the other states in which the Fish and Wildlife Service operates. They do, however, operate in most of our Western States and are anxious to cooperate with state agencies, fish and game departments, livestock men, and others who need assistance in preparatory control work.

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Around the Range Country

ARIZONA

Light to locally moderate showers, mostly in the east, improved the ranges locally and extended grazing areas. Range conditions very spotted; some ranges in southeast good, but mostly poor in other sections. Light frost in the north, no material damage.

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures subnormal in north; mostly above normal elsewhere. Precipitation negligible. Grain harvest nearly ended. Pastures dry; cattle in good condition.

COLORADO

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal; only light, widely scattered showers. Fall grain harvest ending. Hay harvests continue good. Livestock fair to good, but marketing because of poor ranges.

Del Norte, Rio Grande County

We have had the driest season in the past 20 years (September 25). Our high range has been good but there is no fall feed on our low range. I anticipate a reduction in my herd because of this and labor conditions. We cannot get enough herders and have received no government help to ease the situation.

Although we have no trouble getting livestock cars, we do have considerable difficulty in getting machinery, equipment, and repairs and must go through endless "red tape." We have sufficient ammunition and are not bothered with coyotes. My feeling toward the returns on my 1944 wools is not so good as I have never received my final returns.

John Gredig

IDAHO

Temperature above normal, slightly scattered rains. Harvesting and threshing mostly completed. Pastures fair, livestock good.

Leadore, Lemhi County

I have been greatly disappointed with the returns under the government plan. It seems as though there was too much

wool put in the tag pile which runs the net returns down. I have been trying all year to get a tractor and as yet have been unable to get one.

Weather and feed conditions on the range during September (September 20th) have been very good, or about on the average with the other years. The outlook for fall and winter feed is very favorable. So far I have not reduced my herd and don't expect any reduction. I have a sufficient number of herders. Although we have sufficient ammunition, the coyote situation is the worst I have ever seen.

F. J. Whittaker

MONTANA

Considerable sunshine and gradual warming; occasional light showers. Threshing 75 per cent complete. Alfalfa seed crops rather light. Growth of vegetation stopped by freeze in north and west; slight to no damage in southeast.

NEVADA

Measurable precipitation ended drought period in west and north-central. Subnormal temperature, with killing frosts in all but southeastern portion. Lamb shipping almost completed.

NEW MEXICO

Moderate to heavy showers in mountains and southwest, otherwise light. Temperatures above normal, but cooling toward end of month. Ranges and late crops benefited from moisture. Livestock in good condition.

Roswell, Chaves County

Feed and weather conditions are better than last year. Feeds are better than last year, although they are more expensive (September 22). I am anticipating a reduction in my herd. Old ewes are bringing \$2.50. Not a great deal of trouble is experienced if livestock cars are ordered in advance. There is some fall contracting on range lambs.

W. C. Treat

An Outsider Looks at New Mexico Wools

Albuquerque, New Mexico,
September 7, 1944

I have not found as much loosely scattered tags in the original bags as some other places, and the growers are very particular in keeping their black wool distinctly segregated. However, unfortunately a "too much" amount of wools goes into the bags at a number of shearing corrals untied—not due to lack of string, but carelessness; and in this respect if there was a discount imposed upon this neglect, one would soon see this mistake corrected.

The growers in this section seem to be interested in fair valuation and comments on their clips, and in many cases will in 2 or 3 years make improvements in their wools.

Tying of fleeces by sisal twine here has been practically cut out due to discounting same and to the wool "buyers" and handlers efforts.

Re range conditions—would not consider them as good as in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, South Dakota, and Colorado, but above the average. In many spots the range has come back to where it was a few years ago—caused by rain-falls and the re-seeding of the range. Most of the sheep in this section will go on to the winter range in good condition.

All in all, the sheepmen and handlers have been appreciative of the appraisers' work and efforts, and the handlers have looked after the sheepmen's interests and have properly displayed their customers' wools in most cases.

Ralph V. "Duke" Wellington
Rock Springs, Wyoming

OREGON

Local freezing in the east. Heavy local showers in scattered northern areas, elsewhere light. Pastures improved in northwest and locally in northeast.

The National Wool Grower



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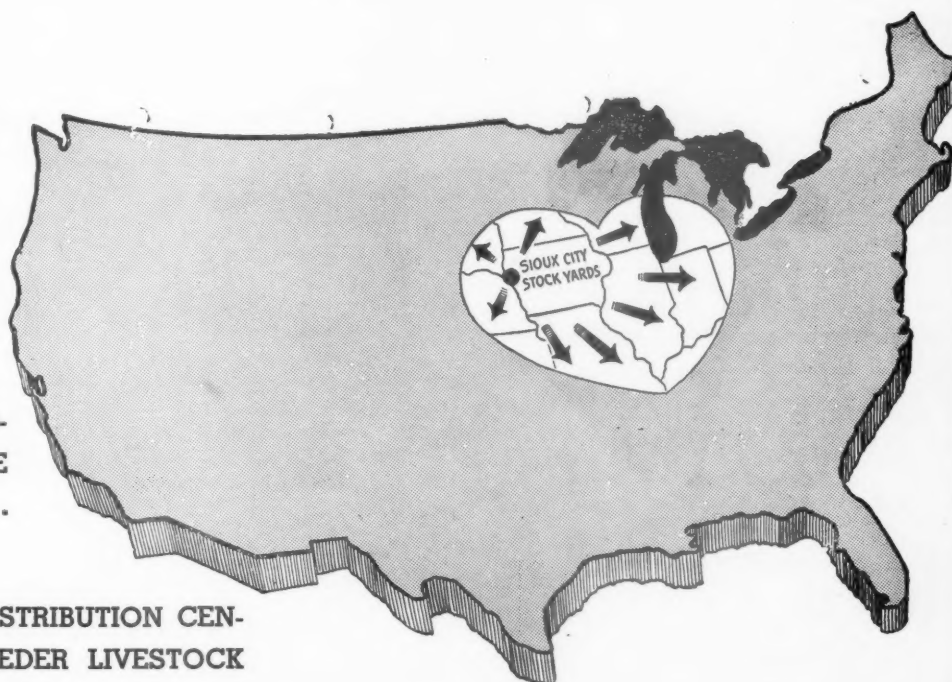
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Echo, Umatilla County

This has been the driest season in several years (September 22). Prospects for winter feed is poor. Hay and grain is plentiful, good help is scarce. I have received some government help through the County employment office of the county agent. Most growers here feel that less money would be received if wool was sold on the open market than under the government plan.

The sheep count in Umatilla county is being rapidly reduced due to the high price of feed and labor.

Gaylord M. Madison

SOUTH DAKOTA

Varying temperatures. Corn rapidly approaching maturity; two-thirds to three-fourths saved from frost dangers. Threshing grains need a week of dry weather to finish.

Zeona, Perkins County

Lambs seem to be moving but not in any mad rush. Many people are talking of selling out and ewe prices are slipping, fives being quoted at three dollars. Herders are still hard to get but the state and government agencies are securing help.

Weather conditions have been fine for sheep this fall (September 24) and there is an abundant growth of grass on the ranges but the quality is not so good as in some of the less wet years. However, compared with the last two years, it is better and the sheep are much fatter.

The coyote situation is troublesome. This spring and summer coyotes have developed into real super killers. There are few rabbits, gophers or mice now and so sheep are first on the menu of Mr. Coyote. They got their education in killing last winter when the snow was deep and the antelope fell easy victims. Tiny red ants eat the "snif-snif" from the baits on our coyote getters. Last year planes took many of the coyotes and we are looking forward to the time when they can again hunt the coyote by air.

Homer Ayres

Hoover, Butte County

There has been some contracting at 10 to 11 cents on feeder lambs. Weather and feed conditions have been rather good and we are expecting a good fall

and winter range. We have been herding our own sheep. The securing of machinery has given us little difficulty so far. The coyotes have been very bad and there has been a loss in almost every herd this summer. However, we are able to secure enough ammunition. All in all, the returns on the 1944 wools have been good.

T. H. Bekken

TEXAS

Favorable temperatures; no rain in most sections. Ranges need rain in many sections, but condition still relatively good; livestock continue in good condition and holding recent gains. Rain needed for ranges and late feed crops.

Lometa, Lampasas County

We are pleased to advise that range conditions in Texas (September 30) were never better and the condition of livestock is very satisfactory. Excellent rains have fallen recently and cold weather is about 30 days away.

All of the Texas wools have been appraised, there being approximately 50 warehouses who qualified as primary handlers. Many difficulties have arisen by having wool appraised in Texas, but it is hoped that they will be ironed out by another season. The Texas warehouses can hardly care for another clip, but the writer thinks it could be done in a real emergency.

We expect a shortage of protein feeds, but with a good crop of other feeds, conditions will be better than last year. Fully 20 per cent shortage exists in the number of sheep from the same date last year and are still moving to market.

Lucius M. Stephens

Sonora, Sutton County

We had our first rain August 25 and another ten days later. The range is much improved and offers a fine sheep and goat pasture (September 26). We have sufficient protein. The returns for the 1944 wools are very satisfactory. I have had no trouble as yet securing livestock cars. As to our coyote situation, we have none!

H. V. Stokes

UTAH

Warm days, but cool nights, with killing frosts in southwest and light frosts in northeast. Precipitation in north only.

The National Wool Grower

Who Determines Prices?

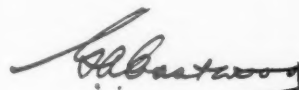
★ The skill and knowledge of commission men and packer buyers are factors in determining the prices at which livestock change ownership—not because they determine the actual value of the livestock but because in their trading they reach an agreement regarding the **quality** possessed by the animals and, consequently, the **grade** into which they fall.

In normal times, the value of the different grades is determined by the consuming public. Housewives fix a "ceiling" which is entirely in-

dependent of such factors as production cost and trading procedure. At present "ceilings" are fixed by government authorities.

The trading that goes on in the "yards" is an effort on the part of the salesmen to get full value or the "ceiling," and an effort on the part of the buyers to get livestock at a price which will not exceed the value as determined by consumers. Competent salesmen and buyers whose training enables them to "look" under the hide and accurately appraise the quality and quantity

of meat there have little difficulty in getting together on a price because each knows it is the consuming public which determines the value.



President.



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IT PAYS TO STAY WITH THE LEADER—BUY HAMPSHIRE

Logan, Cache County

The wool growers of this area can feel fortunate in the real advancement in wool marketing conditions this year compared with 1943. Under arrangements with the Commodity Credit Corporation, long delays and red tape in the marketing of wool have been eliminated. This year I marketed my wool through the Inland Wool Company of Salt Lake City and received final settlement within thirty days. Last year my sale through a reputable eastern firm required seven months. In 1943, my wool was graded into sixteen classifications. Under the simplified new arrangement there were only eight classifications for my 1944 clip. This year 63 per cent of my wool sold for better than 50 cents per pound. The net on the entire sale was 42.6 cents compared with 36.5 cents per pound last year.

Messrs. Walter Gooding, Jack Worknack of the Inland Wool Company and Mr. Duke Wellington, the grader, certainly did an excellent job in handling my wool this year.

L. S. Smart

WASHINGTON

Temperatures averaged 4 degrees above normal. Showers forepart; mostly light or inconsequential, except moderate to heavy in northwest. Pastures improving in the west.

Sunnyside, Yakima County

Returns for the 1944 wools seemed more satisfactory this year than they were last year, but are still low considering the cost of production. Concentrates are not used much here as we can buy all grains. Smoked meat is hard to get, but we have an abundance of all else. We do have sufficient herders but of a poor quality. The W.F.A. tried to provide help for the lambing last spring.

General conditions are worse than they have been in the last three years. The weather has been dry (September 28). Feed deteriorates fast. Due to a poor start, our lambs have not done so well. Although we can secure ammunition, we have a very bad situation with the coyotes.

John Etulain

WYOMING

Mild and continued dry. Water scarce, but livestock excellent. Fire hazard critical. Crops mostly matured; frost danger slight.

Rock Springs, Sweetwater County

The weather and feed conditions on the range have been dry (September 20) but above normal for several years. We have a sufficient amount of feed for winter and concentrates are available. There have been some contracts for fall delivery. General price run is 12 cents for feeder lambs to 12½ cents for fine wool ewe lambs and the same for cross-bred ewe lambs. Due to losses last winter and this spring, I anticipate some reduction in my herd. We do have a sufficient number of herders.

Machinery and equipment is hard to obtain and we cannot always get all kinds. This is the biggest problem at present. We have had no trouble securing livestock cars but the rush season is about thirty days away. We have a great many coyotes but they are being controlled.

Carrie Gottsche Ranch

Casper, Natrona County

The feed is poor and the weather has been dry. Conditions have been below the average. Feed on fall and winter range is poor, although soy bean and other concentrated feeds are available. There have been some contracts on lambs (September 21) with prices at 12 cents for fat lambs, feeders and cross-bred ewe lambs at 11¼ to 11½ cents. The feeling on returns for wool sold under the government plan is quite favorable. We can secure sufficient equipment with the exception of pickups. Our coyote situation is being well controlled, and we can obtain ammunition in sufficient quantities.

Robert Grieve

Around the Range Country is the individual sheepman's section of the National Wool Grower and is open for reports of range and livestock conditions and other information or expressions of opinion on problems of interest to sheepmen generally.

The reports of conditions preceding sheepmen's letters in each state in Around the Range Country are taken from the telegraphic summaries for the week ending September 26, as published in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, U.S. Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau.

The National Wool Grower will appreciate receiving any comments its readers desire to make concerning the industry and present conditions existing in their locality. Also, any suggestions that they may have as to how the Wool Grower could be improved.

Grazing District Notes

(Continued from page 26)

drought has caused some concern throughout the State. Generally speaking, forage crops are good, with the hay crop above normal. Exception to the rule, however, is found in the Tropic and Panguitch areas of the Vermillion District which witnessed late spring frosts. These had an adverse effect upon the hay crop in that vicinity.

Livestock in general are in better flesh than they were at this time of the year in 1943. The dry pastures and ranges evidently produced an epidemic of "pink eye" in the cattle which, though not serious, in every case kept the animals affected in poor condition. Lambs should reach the market in better flesh than last year, but reports indicate a smaller number due to adverse conditions during lambing season.

In general livestock marketing has hardly started to date, but with many cattle "grass fat" September should see a considerable shipment of this class. There seems to be a tendency to liquidate stock cattle so as to reduce the size of their herds. There are several reasons for this: a desire to help in the decrease of the overall excess of cattle population, and to retain cattle in line with the available supply of hay. Most of the cattlemen are quite skeptical regarding the immediate future of the cattle business.

There has been considerable activity in ranch sales and an increasing interest in the transferring of grazing privileges where such transfer would consolidate and improve the land holdings of the operators involved.

Milton W. Reid, Regional Grazier

Dry, windy weather has prevailed throughout the region during most of this quarter. After an abnormal amount of spring and early summer moisture, which began tapering off in early July, practically no moisture has fallen over

the winter ranges. With the exception of eastern Carbon, western Natrona and Laramie counties, range feeds matured with good growth before it was materially affected by drought. Palatable browse plants made exceptionally good growth, and with normal fall rains to toughen the foliage to prevent shattering, winter range conditions in general should be good to excellent.

There is still a tendency to reduce sheep numbers in some localities, especially in Fremont and Natrona counties where partial replacement will be made with cattle. With heavier than normal spring losses in both spring lambs and mature sheep in the southern portion of the State, the general overall situation points to a slight reduction of sheep within the region over last year's numbers.

Sheep and lambs have summered in good condition, with early sales of lambs weighing up to or slightly above last year.

Cattle have made good gains in most areas. August shipment of dry cows and heifers is expected to exceed numbers for the same period last year.

Owner Cleared of Killing Deer

The following item was clipped from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 28, 1944:

Drannan Seely, Huntington, Utah, has been acquitted by a Huntington justice court jury of a charge of killing deer without a permit after he testified the deer were damaging his property.

The case was considered by the Utah Private Land Protective Association as a test case to determine the right of a landowner to protect his land and crops against damage from deer even to the extent of shooting them without permits.

Defense was based upon a state constitutional provision giving owner of property legal right to kill game animals in protection of his property.

Highway Livestock Movement Jumps

Receipts of livestock by highway at principal markets increased 6,931,427 head, or 31 per cent, during the first six months of this year as compared with the same period of 1943. Highway movement of livestock to these markets during the first half of 1944 totaled 29,482,487 head. Last year the movement during the same period was 22,551,060 head. Total shipments of livestock by highway and rail to principal markets for the first half of this year totaled 49,820,460 head compared with 39,686,935 in the first six months of 1943. In the first two quarters of last year motor vehicles handled 56.8 per cent of the livestock shipped to principal markets, while this year for the same period the amount transported by highway was 59.2 per cent of the total receipts.

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Will have Corriedale ewes, eligible for registration, mixed ages, for sale by September 1st. Do not wish to breed them at the ranch, but have a number of high-class stud rams to be sold with them. Can take orders now for as long as they last.

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Also 1100 head of half blood Corriedale range 5-year old ewes at reasonable prices.

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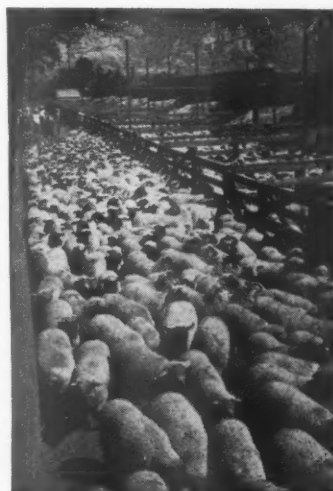
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75% of the sheep receipts at Ogden during past few months have sold on this market.

Competition unsurpassed anywhere results in satisfied customers.

Sell at

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Women's Auxiliary

(Continued from page 14)

If he considered a homesteader's price reasonable, he would take a greasy checkbook and equally greasy stub of a pencil out of his pocket and scrawl a check for the amount. If he thought a homesteader was unreasonable, he would dismiss the matter with a wave of his arm as he said: "Aye, mon, I'll go to the courts with ye."

Despite favorable conditions otherwise, pioneer-day sheepmen had their ups and downs. During hard times of the early '90s, mutton lambs dropped to \$1 and wool to 3c a pound. It was in these days that George McCredy once said, "A sheepman went to bed not knowing if he would wake up a sheepman or shepherd." Perhaps the greatest adversity encountered was flocks becoming infested with scabies, a form of animal itch particularly harmful and hard to cure with wool covered stock. It was thought this disease was first brought to Klickitat County with infected breeding stock imported from the Southwest. Many owners tried to stamp this out by the usual method, dipping flocks in a solution of hot water, sulphur, Blackleaf (nicotine juice) and other noninjurious chemicals. Many owners did not go to this trouble or expense. As a result, scabies spread and the range became infected to such an extent that a quarantine was placed against all mutton shipped from Central Washington. The office of sheep commissioner or sheep inspector had become more or less of a political chromo, and very little was accomplished until a sheepman, Alex Hamilton, was appointed in 1902. He held office for 12 years and carried on a vigorous campaign to get rid of the scabies. Permanent community dipping vats were located at strategic points for use in all seasons. At times 25,000 to 35,000 sheep were awaiting their turn for immersion at these places.

In the pioneer's day, sheep shearing was considered about the fastest way to get money working. Many men followed this seasonal occupation almost exclusively. Originally shearing was done by hand with what was called "the blades."

In early days, supplies and stock sale were taken to mountain camps with pack horses. One of the most colorful sights at Goldendale was watching eight or ten strings of loaded pack horses depart. Animals used were of a sturdy

type and had to be kept well shod. This provided much work for Goldendale blacksmith shops, as about 500 horses were used. Today this packing is largely done with auto trucks.

One-eyed Riley, a colorful sheepherder of these early days, always claimed he was sole survivor of the Custer Massacre, because he said an order for him to deliver a message from General Reno's command to General Custer was countermanded on the morning of the battle just before he started to climb on a cavalry horse. When asked if he thought General Reno erred in not going to Custer's aid, he would straighten up like a soldier and say, "Well, all I can say is I am damn glad he didn't."

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